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Donor call

Two-year-old's parents in bone marrow appeal

See Page 3

Cats crisis

Dumped moggies are in need of new homes

See Page 9

First class

Stamp of approval for Bomber's Albion career

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POST OFFICE BID FOR PRIME SPOT

A POST office will open in West Bromwich's £200 million New Square shopping centre, if bosses get their way, safeguarding services in the town for years to come.

Report by Lisa Wright

Post office chiefs want to move the branch from its current location in High Street, West Bromwich, to New Square and extend its opening hours.

In June last year the branch, close to Morrisons supermarket, unexpectedly shut down, forcing customers who use it to collect pensions, buy tax discs and foreign currency to go elsewhere. But now, chiefs want to secure its future by opening a new branch in the town's flagship shopping and leisure development.

Investment

The investment comes after plans were unveiled earlier this year for 70 Crown Post Offices across the country to close and services moved into shops.

Willenhall was among main branches earmarked for closure.

A six-week consultation on the new proposals has been launched. If proposals go ahead, the new branch would open earlier on Monday mornings and remain open on Saturday afternoons.

The opening hours would be Monday from 8.30am to 5.30pm and Tuesday to Saturday from 9am to 5.30pm – giving customers an extra five and a half hours a week.

Post Office regional network manager Simon Drinkwater said: "We understand how important having a Post Office is to residents in the area and we are confident that the proposed new modern branch would meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future."

The Dog Kennel Lane Post Office in Oldbury recently got a revamp and it has been announced that the post office would be refurbishing its branch in Castle Road West, Warley.

Victim is fighting for life in hospital

A MAN was in hospital fighting for his life after he was attacked outside a restaurant in Great Barr.

The incident happened outside Special Spices pub and restaurant, formerly the Asbury Tavern, at the corner of Bowstoke Road and Newton Road

Police say a 25-year-old man from Great Barr was assaulted and fell to the ground suffering a serious head injury in the attack at around 9pm on Sunday.

Arrested

A 40-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of assault after being stopped in a vehicle in Birmingham by officers on Monday.

The man was being questioned by police.

Detective Inspector Ian Iliffe, from West Midlands Police Force CID, said: "The assault took place outside the restaurant around 9pm, but we believe the altercation may have started inside."

The pub was recently taken over and refurbished to be transformed into a bar and restaurant serving Indian meals with screens for showing live sports coverage.

Anyone with information should call 101 or they can get in touch anonymously using the Crimestoppers hotline on 0800 555 111.

Schoolboy is hit by a van

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy was injured when he was hit by a van near a school in Tipton.

Emergency services were called to the accident at the junction of Park Lane West and Manor Road, in Tipton, at around 3.30pm Monday.

The incident happened close to Tipton Green Junior School.

The boy suffered facial injuries, cuts and a swollen ankle. Paramedic area support officer Huw Jones said the child had a lucky escape. The boy was taken to hospital to be checked over.

Teenager facing charges after armed car jacking

A TEENAGER accused of brandishing a gun during a car jacking and a shop raid has appeared before magistrates.

The 17-year-old this week appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court charged with possession of a firearm.

He is also jointly charged on two counts of robbery with co-defendants Anil Patel, aged 21, and Nathan Taylor, 18.

The case relates to the theft of a BMW in Castlegate, Dudley, on September 19 and the theft of cash from Nisa Local in Walsall Road, Great Barr, the following day.

The youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was remanded in custody as were Patel, of Charlemont Road, Walsall, and Taylor, of St Ives Road, Park Hall, Walsall.

Strictly glitzy for charity day

Dancer Erin Boag and and celebrity partner Olympic athlete Colin Jackson waltz in to the the npower building in Oldbury

A TOUCH of glitz and glamour was brought to an Oldbury office as Strictly Come Dancing favourites Erin Boag and Colin Jackson waltzed in to dazzled suprised staff as part of a fundraising drive.

The pair, who came second in the 2005 edition of the BBC celebrity dancing competition, strutted their stuff in front of npower staff at the firm's headquarters on Monday.

Staff were entertained as the professional dancer and former Olympic athlete danced, signed photographs and even judged a cake competition at the power company's Joseph Street base to help the firm's fundraising drive for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Erin, whose professional partner is fellow Strictly contestant Anton du Beke, said: "We are travelling all over the country with npowerto support the charity.

Donation

"All of the staff here have made a donation to do a workshop with us, watch the show, or enter the cake competition, and every bit of money goes to Macmillan.

"I think everyone during their lifetime is affected by cancer, whether that's directly or someone they know, and npower have supported Macmillan for the last few years. This is a good way for people to have fun, join in and raise money at the same time."

To date the company has raised more than £2.3 million country-wide for the cause.

Clare McDougall, head of community for npower, said: "npower has been raising funds for Macmillan for the past nine years, and we're keen to continue this.

"We are huge fans of Colin and Erin so we're delighted to have the couple on board."

Police in plea over murder of rapper

AN 18-YEAR-OLD man has appeared in court charged with killing an up-and-comng rapper who was stabbed after a fundraising event, as police appealed for witnesses to come forward

Armani Deniro Mitchell is accused of murdering Joshua Ribera outside TCs nightclub in Selly Oak. He was remanded in custody during a hearing at the city's magistrates' court on Tuesday. Mitchell, of The Green, Northfield, spoke only to confirm his name, address and date-of-birth, and was ordered to reappear at Birmingham Crown Court for a preliminary hearing today (Thursday).

Mr Ribera, 18, was stabbed at around 11pm on Friday after attending a fundraising event for a murder victim's family.

Another man arrested in connection with Mr Ribera's death has been released on conditional bail pending further inquiries.

Detectives are still keen to hear from anyone who was at TCs on Friday night or who witnessed the stabbing.

Detective Inspector Gary Plant said: "We know there were a lot of people at the fundraising event on Friday and Joshua was a well-known rising music star."

Call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

New leisure hub is open

A LONG-AWAITED new £18 million leisure and health centre opened its doors in Oldbury this week.

Portway Lifestyle Centre in Newbury Lane brings together leisure, health and social care under one roof and includes a GP surgery and Portway Family Practice, replacing the Tividale Family Practice.

The centre also houses a four-court sports hall, a hydrotherapy pool, a climbing wall, dance studio, 114-station fitness suite and a all-weather five-a-side pitch.

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What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. Email your information and pictures to *sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk*

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Student sentenced to seven years over Ben's death

Jailed – Andy Ly

A STUDENT is starting a seven-year custodial sentence for the manslaughter of 16-year-old Ben Morutare – despite denying he delivered the fatal blow.

Andy Ly, aged 18, was handed the seven-year term in a young offenders' institution at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Walsall teenager Ben.

The youngster died from a single stab wound to the leg after a large and violent fracas involving more than 40 people outside the former Old Comrades Club near Fenton Street in Smethwick on July 27 last year.

Five others, all aged between 18 and 20, were also jailed for their parts in the incident (see below).

Sentencing them, Deputy High Court Judge Sir Geoffrey Grigson told the group immediate custodial terms were 'necessary' to punish them and to deter others from violence.

He told them: "Your barristers have spoken about your hopes for the future but Ben Morutare and his family have been deprived of his. It's clear from the evidence that the opportunity for violence was both looked for and welcomed."

Ly denied murder but after seven weeks of his trial he offered a plea of guilty to manslaughter which was accepted by the prosecution. That plea was offered on the basis that he was not the one who delivered the stab wound that led to Ben's death.

The sentences come after a 10-week trial and an investigation that involved trawling through more than 1,000 hours of CCTV footage, interviewing around 1,000 people, and 35 arrests.

Killers being protected by silence and lies, says judge

THE HUNT is still on to find the person who delivered the fatal stab wound to teenager Ben Morutare in Smethwick, as six young men start jail terms for their roles in violence leading to his death.

The six were all sent to young offenders' institutions for being involved in the violence that led to the death of the schoolboy.

But the police investigation is not over, with the search still taking place for the person that delivered the single, fatal blow, and for others involved in the violence.

Sentencing all of the defendants on Friday, Deputy High Court Judge Sir Geoffrey Grigson said he thought they knew who was involved. He told them: "Your silence and lies are protecting Ben's killers.

"All of you played a part in serious and violent public disorder which resulted in the death of a 16-year-old boy."

Disorder

Speaking after sentences were passed, investigating officer Detective Chief Inspector Bob Hazel called for anyone who knew anything about the killing to come forward.

He said: "The judge remarked that all of the defendants knew who inflicted the fatal blow. I'm absolutely convinced that the people we had on trial were involved in the disorder, but there were 300 to 400 people at the club where the incident took place, and at least 40 in the group that attacked Ben."

The youngster, from Holden Crescent, Coalpool, Walsall, was stabbed in the leg after violence flared outside a birthday party at the former Smethwick Home Guard and Old Comrades Club on July 27 last year.

He and two friends were attacked by a group of at least 40 youths.

Ben, who was just five feet two inches tall, was fatally stabbed while trying to protect his two friends. He was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital where he died several hours later.

Following sentencing, Detective Inspector Gary Plant from West Midlands Police's Major Investigation Review Team said: "The attack on little Ben was a despicable crime with a tragic and unnecessary loss of life which sees six men now facing time behind bars.

"Together with his friends and hundreds of other teenagers, Ben attended a birthday party that was advertised via social media. A small minority of people singled him out and attacked him, all because he, and his friends, were not local. Ben was a small boy who, when seen on CCTV alongside his attackers, looks like a small child by comparison. Even paramedics attending the scene initially believed he was 12 or 13."

Student Andy Ly, 18 from Great Colmore Street, Ladywood, was handed a seven year sentence after his guilty plea to manslaughter. He was also given a three-year sentence for violent disorder, to run concurrently.

Tahj Mills, 19 from Waterside Street in West Bromwich, and 20-year-old Tobias Blake, from Kelsall Croft, Ladywood, were each given three-and-a-half years after being convicted of violent disorder. Blake was also found guilty of possession of an offensive weapon but was handed no separate punishment for the offence.

Omar Robinson, 19 from Rann Close, Ladywood, and 18-year-old Halesowen Town footballer Dale Reid, from Rodney Close, Ladywood, have been jailed for 28 months each for guilty pleas to violent disorder. Jordan Campbell, 18 from Portland Road, Edgbaston, has been handed 18 months for his part in the incident after being found guilty of violent disorder.

Ly and Robinson were originally on trial for Ben's murder but seven weeks into the proceedings their guilty pleas to other offences were accepted.

Ly's manslaughter plea was offered on the basis that he was not the one who stabbed Ben in the leg, but that instead he was with a group of people knowing that one of their number had a knife which they might use.

Victim – Ben Morutare tried to protect his friends

Ben Morutare, circledleft, seconds before he was stabbed, Andy Ly circled right

Dale Reid, of Ladywood

Omar Robinson, aged 19

Jordan Campbell, 18

Tobias Blake, aged 20

Tahj Mills, of West Brom

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Councils in joint effort for jobless youngsters

BLACK Country councils have joined forces for a new scheme designed to combat youth unemployment.

The local authorities in Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton have launched the two-year Youth Employment Commission in a bid to help more young people into work.

The commission will work with businesses, charities and social enterprises to find the best ways of getting young people working.

The move comes as a report by the commission says the true number of unemployed people aged from 18 to 24 in the Black Country is estimated to be 16,815 rather than the previously reported 14,070.

This is because young people who are out of work but not claiming Jobseeker's Allowance are not included in the official unemployment figure.

Waste

Sandwell's council leader Councillor Darren Cooper, who drove forward plans for the commission, said: "Youth unemployment is a terrible waste of talent and a devastating blow to young lives and this report makes clear it is even worse than the official figure says.

"Along with our partner councils across the area, I am determined to do absolutely everything we can to help young people into work, training or employment."

Latest figures show the number of people aged 18 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the four areas is above the national average of 26.4 per cent.

In Sandwell it is 27.9 per cent, in Dudley 28.9 per cent, in Walsall 27.5 per cent, while in Wolverhampton the figure is 27 per cent.

In May 2013 – the latest month when figures were available – 3,195 young people across the region aged 18 to 24 had been unemployed for over a year.

Murder charge man in custody

A HUSBAND accused of murdering his wife will enter a plea in December.

Jasvir Ram Ginday has been charged with the murder of Varkha Rani, 32, whose body was found in Victory Lane, Reedswood, on September 13.

The 32-year-old was remanded in custody until December 16 by Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

Tributes paid to Tipton community champion Fred

Alderman Fred Perry

TRIBUTES have been paid to honorary alderman and Tipton community champion Fred Perry MBE, who has died aged 87.

The former Sandwell councillor, who had been ill for some time, died on September 16 and his funeral is due to be held today (Thursday) at 4 pm at Sandwell Valley Crematorium.

He celebrated his 62nd wedding anniversary with his wife Irene, just days before he died. He also leaves daughters Susan and Lisa, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr Perry of Horton Street, Tipton , served as Labour ward member for Great Bridge on Sandwell Council for more than 15 years.

He as presented with the honorary title of alderman in 2008. He was awarded an MBE in the 2010 New Year's Honours list for his work to improve the lives of people in Tipton.

Sandwell Council lowered its flag to half mast last Tuesday in his honour.

After he retiring from the council Mr Perry continued to play an active part in the community. He was known for his work with the Tipton branch of the Royal British Legion and had been both secretary and chairman of the branch.

Friend Councillor Peter Allen said he took a leading role in the annual poppy appeal.

He said: "He could always be found in the Asda in Great Bridge selling poppies. He was also always out on Great Bridge High Street, even when he was quite ill he would be out chatting to people and supporting the community. He will be very sadly missed."

Mr Perry was a former Hill Top School pupil and served in Burma with the British Army's Fifth Indian Division between 1943-1945.

He used to manage the West Bromwich Strollers football team and spent his working life at Phoenix Steel Tube in the town.

Crunch meeting on the future of Legion club

A CRUNCH meeting is being held today (Thursday) at a Royal British Legion club which faces closure after the branch celebrated 90 years in Smethwick.

by Lisa Wright

At its height, the Smethwick Royal British Legion club had 1,000 members, but now it has only around 90 members and it cannot afford to keep the club running.

On Thursday bosses hold a meeting at which members will be asked whether or not to continue.

The branch, which celebrated its 90th anniversary this year, is based at the Highway House in Londonderry Lane.

Lease

The vote will be on the club trading and having the support of the membership and the finance to do so.

Club spokesman John Evans said: "What is happening is, we have had a meeting with the Royal British Legion regarding our lease, and they are increasing the cost of our lease.

"We are having a meeting. It is a special general meeting to see what the members want to do.They have got to consider and vote on what we have got to do.

"It is not ceasing trading yet, it is just a consideration and vote on the future.

"We need to find out from the members which way they want to go. Financially, we cannot carry on for that long."

The branch faces a lease increase of £1,200 a year as well as rises in insurance costs for the building.

Mr Evans added: "We are just not taking in enough money to keep going. It is as simple as that."

The meeting will take place at the club at 8.30pm. Members will be asked to consider and vote on the resolution, which is for the 'cessation of trading of the Smethwick Royal British Legion Club Ltd'.

If the actual club closes, the Royal British Legion branch would still continue to exist.

If it closes, it would be one of the latest Sandwell clubs to shut its doors.

In November last year the Blackheath British Legion Memorial Club, which ran for around 90 years at Powke Lane, was forced to close as the rent could not be covered.

The branch continues to operate from a new home whilst the former club building is to be turned into apartments.

For more Smethwick news see page 14

Mayor delays charity weekend

THE Mayor of Sandwell's charity fundraising events scheduled for this weekend at Sandwell Valley have been postponed until the spring.

Mayor Councillor Linda Horton said: "Due to lack of entrants and a mixed weather forecast, we've taken the decision to postpone the charity fundraising weekend.

"We're sorry for any disappointment and will publicise new dates and details once they've been agreed," she added.

Donor plea for brave two-year-old

Parents Sunny and Gurprit Bains with their two-year-old son Gaurav at their home in Alexandra Road, Tipton

SITTING on his parents' laps Tipton boy Gaurav Bains looks like any other happy two-year-old.

But the Alexandra Road youngster is fighting a dangerous blood condition and his parents are making a bone marrow donor plea to give him the chance to grow up.

Gurprit and Sunny Bains said their little boy Gaurav was born prematurely, and struggled through his first winter. Then last year he started to suffer with chest infections.

Mrs Bains said: "He would have chest infection after chest infection. Every time we finished a course of antibiotics and he would be better, the infection would return. He was in and out of hospital all the time."

In March Gaurav was referred to Birmingham Children's Hospital. Doctors diagnosed Gaurav with the blood disorder Monosomy 7 which means he has more chance of developing an aggressive form of childhood leukaemia.

His family have been told his chances of survival will be increased if he has a bone marrow transplant.

The couple along with Gaurav's four-year-old sister Kiran have now all been tested to see if they are a match.

Mr Bains, who works in the family shop, said: "We are desperately hoping we are a match, because then we can get this process started. But if not, we will have to go to the Anthony Nolan Trust bone marrow register to see if we can find someone to help Gaurav."

Mr and Mrs Bains are now calling on people to sign up to the bone marrow transplant list. The couple are also calling on more Asian people to sign up as they are more likely to be match for Asian children like Gaurav.

For more information on the bone marrow register visit the website www.anthonynolan.org

NEWS in brief

More than 400 new homes on agenda

PLANNING bosses were yesterday (Wednesday) set to decide whether more than 400 homes can be built across Sandwell.

The council's planning committee were deciding on the future of several sites and were being recommended to approve 233 homes at Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich.

The next largest was for 65 two, three and four-bedroom houses on the site of the demolished eyesore Bolton Court tower blocks on Ocker Hill Road, Tipton.

Other sites include the former Princes End Primary School and Laburnum Road areas in Tipton. Housing is also earmarked for the site of Regent School on Red Lion Close, Tividale; land adjacent to Springfield Primary School on Doulton Road, Rowley Regis; and at the site of Kent Close Primary School in Denbigh Drive, West Bromwich.

Memorial to war dead is restored

A FIRST World War memorial will be rededicated in a special ceremony on Saturday following a renovation scheme.

Sandwell Council has been restoring the Rowley Regis memorial, originally erected in 1920 by public subscription at St Giles Church in Hanover Road.

It came after local resident Mr Geoff Tranter told a Rowley forum meeting that the names of the fallen were being erased due to erosion. That resulted in Sandwell Council providing the funding for the work.

The ceremony will take place at 10am.

Birds of prey in a museum display

VISITORS will get to see the skills of birds of prey on Sunday at the last weekend opening of 2013 at Oak House Museum in West Bromwich.

The Bird of Prey afternoon is to be held from 2pm to 5pm with last admission at 4.30. The event is free but there will be a small charge for craft activities. Visit the website www.sandwell.gov.uk/museums or call 0121 553 0759.

The museum will continue to open during October and November on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm with last admission at 3.30.

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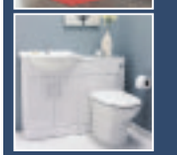

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IS ANYONE surprised by this week's TUC report showing that thousands of tenants have slipped into rent arrears after being clobbered with the bedroom tax? I can't think of a more mean-spirited policy than cutting the housing benefit of people whose only crime is to live in the house their local council or housing association gave them. Everyone accepts there is a desperate shortage of family-sized public housing, caused largely by successive governments ripping up border controls and rewarding people for breeding like rabbits. Tenants with smaller families should be encouraged to vacate big houses they no longer need. But the way to do that is by building more one and two-bedroom homes in the area and paying tenants a sweetener of, say, £1,000 to make the move. More carrot, less stick.

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SO EVERYONE was guilty but no-one is to blame. The "serious case review" into the death of four-year-old Daniel Pelka who was murdered by his mother and her partner in Coventry, says some professionals were "too optimistic" in believing Daniel's lying mother. We are told that "critical lessons" must be "translated into action". It all sounds hideously familiar. The beauty of a report like this is that it can be pulled off the shelf and used again, time after time for years to come, simply by changing the name of the dead child. A masterpiece.

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FREE school meals for all under-eights? Part of me rejoices at the prospect of millions of mums no longer having to worry about the next day's sandwiches. The other part of me fears that kids who were quite happy with sarnies will now be tearfully exposed to the latest theories on what constitutes a healthy meal. Anyone for tofu and broccoli surprise, kiddies? It is a curious thing but in the days when every state-school kid was raised on a shilling's worth of braised beef, mashed potatoes and stodge pudding, we were a lot thinner and a hell of a lot fitter than today's little sofa-slugs.

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INCIDENTALLY, when I use the word "mums" I of course mean all homemakers, in a non-gender-specific sort of way. You have to be so careful.

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MY ABIDING memory of school dinners (now renamed "school lunches" by the interfering middle classes) is of salads suddenly appearing on the menu with an accompanying bread roll. On day one, the rolls were dry. A pal and I, both aged 10, solved the problem by pouring salad cream on them. For this spark of initiative we were both whacked on the head by a teacher. Happiest days of your life.

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MONEY and justice do not mix. Thousands of motorists have been sent on speed awareness courses not because they posed any particular danger but because 'safety partnerships' signed contracts with the speed-awareness industry. The latest public-order brainwave is for police to arrest drunks and hand them over to private security companies who will put them in 'drunk tanks' and charge £400 to release them. So, in effect, there is a bounty on the head of every drunk. You see the danger? At worst, there is scope for police corruption, with officers taking backhanders for every person delivered. At best, expect a sudden redefinition of the term 'drunk' to include anyone smelling vaguely of alcohol, in order to keep the drunk tanks in business. And don't expect any sympathy from your fellow citizens. The same harrumphers who believe 32mph ought to be a hanging offence also believe that a quiet pint after work is rampant alcoholism. And they have the vote.

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AND would these drunk tanks, with all the attendant humiliation and publicity, be used for drunk-as-a-skunk politicians, the nobility, their offspring and so on? Or would the ruling elite be quietly taken home to sleep it off? What do you think?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Carer jailed for stealing jewellery from elderly

A CARE worker who stole £4,000 worth of jewellery from two elderly women in Smethwick to repay her boyfriend has been jailed for 16 months after admitting the offences.

Shauna Griffiths, 23, of Sandon Road, Edgbaston, preyed on the women, aged 75 and 88, while looking after them for a care agency.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Griffiths was in love with an older man who demanded money from her. Griffiths, described by her defending barrister Miss Sarah Buckingham as a 'shy and timid young woman', in desperaton took out payday loans and accumulated £5,000 of debt.

Then, while working in 'a job she loved' she stole a ring worth £1,100 from the 75-year-old .

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said Griffiths had been the woman's carer for around two years and had been shown her jewellery. The theft was discovered when the victim was cleaning her jewellery. He added: "She complained to the care service but was told the defendant had already admitted the offence."

Griffiths had stolen previously. In April she took jewellery valued at £3,000 from an 88-year-old woman with dementia. The victim's daughter realised jewellery was missing.

After the complaint, Griffiths handed her bosses a list of places where she had sold the items. None were recovered.

Miss Buckingham said: "Her partner demanded money for rent and bills from her. She was in love with him and, desperate to keep him, she took out payday loans.

"It was her first serious relationship. Her life is in ruins and she owes £5,000 of debt."

Dog neglected by grandmother, 32

Grandmother Emma Spooner, was scared of her rottweiler

The dog Kane lived in a filthy back yard and who was discovered by the RSPCA to be underweight

The home Spooner and five children shared with the 'feral' pet which was left to starve in the backyard

GRANDMOTHER Emma Spooner – aged 32 – left a rottweiler to fester and starve in a filthy yard for five years and exposed her own children to the danger of dog bites.

The pet, Kane, eventually had to be put down by the RSPCA.

Emma Spooner, of Tividale, was petrified of the go after it bit two of the five children living in her home.

The underweight animal had to be put down because he had become aggressive after living in its 'own filth' at the home in Peel Way.

Smoking

Spooner admitted failing to ensure Kane had a suitable diet and environment. She was last week sentenced to a curfew on Friday and Saturday nights for three months and banned from keeping animals for five years.

She was also ordered to pay £1,000 costs with District Judge Graham Wilkinson telling her to give up smoking to pay the bill.

Spooner was only 31 when her 14-year-old daughter gave birth to a baby son 17 months ago – she says she feels too young to be a gran and asks her grandson to call her Emma.

She was having to cope, not only with the five children living in her home, but also with looking after an aggressive dog after her boyfriend left her with it.

Report by Louise Jew

After appearing before Dudley Magistrates Court for neglecting the dog, she told of her terror of the animal, which had bitten two of her children.

Spooner said: "The dog didn't like women or children and, apart from biting two of the kids, he also went for my throat. The dog belonged to my ex partner. I was under the impression he would look after it and he should have taken it when he left but he didn't.

"I was made out in court to be bad, but the dog wasn't kept outside for five years like they said. He used to come in at night."

Spooner claimed that she contacted the RSPCA last year asking if they would put Kane down but they had told her it would cost £200, which she could not afford.

She also maintained that the reason the back yard, where Kane was kept, was in such a filthy state when the RSPCA called was that it had snowed over the previous days and she had not been able to clear the paving slabs.

Mrs Vanita Joshi, defending, told the court that Spooner had been with her former partner for 11 years. He mainly cared for the dog and, after he left her for a man, he would on occasions take Kane away for a few days or feed the animal at her home.

"She was petrified of the dog," said Mrs Joshi.

Spooner threw food and water to Kane' who was between 10 and 12-years-old, in the back yard.

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting for the RSPCA, said Inspector Steve Morrall called at Spooner's home on January 29 and could see the dog was 'very lean' and the paving slabs in the yard were covered in faeces. The inspector threw some food to the dog, who ate it ravenously.

When the RSPCA found him, Kane weighed 36.1kg (5 stone 9lb), when he should have tipped the scales at between 45kg (7 stone 1lb) and 55kg (8 stone 9lb).

Chewing

District Judge Graham Wilkinson told Spooner: "You left this dog to fester in the back yard. This poor animal, for five years, lived in a small space, unloved and mostly neglected.

"He goes feral, because he is not getting love and attention. He is left to lie in his own filth. He's occasionally thrown food and he wastes away. He was left to starve slowly and would probably have died a sad, lonely death.

"All this time, you allowed your children to be at risk."

As well as the curfew and pet-keebing ban, the judge ordered Spooner pay £1,000 costs.

At one stage, the judge also halted the proceedings at the court, ordering Spooner to leave the room because she was chewing gum, although he called the case back in about 30 minutes later.

MP backs petition against mail sale

HUNDREDS of signatures have been added to a petition collected by a Sandwell MP opposing Government plans to privatise the Royal Mail.

West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson has been campaigning in the town centre against the plans.

Joined by Lee Barron, regional secretary of the Communication Workers Union, Mr Watson collected more than 300 signatures on West Bromwich High Street in just an hour and a half on Friday.

He is planning to hold more signing sessions in coming weeks. His petition will then be sent to Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Ripped

Mr Watson said: "Royal Mail is part of the fabric of the nation. The Government's plans will see it ripped apart and threaten the future of the universal postal service across the country."

The Government has announced lthat it intends to privatise the Royal Mail i by selling shares, which could generate up to £3 billion.

Royal Mail chief executive Moya Greene last week met 1,200 union members at a private meeting in Birmingham in a last-ditch bid to win their support for the move, but a ballot for industrial action is expected to be launched by the Communication Workers Union.

Business minister Michael Fallon said there was 'sufficient appetite' from investors to justify the sell-off.

Patients moved after ward flood

A FLOOD in a hospital meant 20 patients had to be moved to a neighbouring ward.

A leaking pipe caused flooding in the Eliza Tinsley ward at Rowley Regis hospital, in Moor Lane, on Sunday morning.

Staff in the rehabilitation ward moved the patients to other beds while work was carried out to clean up after water began gushing onto the ward at 8.30am.

A fire crew from Wednesbury was called to help with specialist equipment to clear away the water.

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Shamed officer to face his boss

A SEX-MAD policeman who cheated on his wife with a domestic violence victim will face a misconduct hearing next month.

Jordan Powell, of Tipton, was jailed for 15 months by Gloucester Crown Court last week after admitting three counts of misconduct in a public office.

The married father-of-two, based at Kidderminster police station, was caught out in an undercover operation.

Chief

West Mercia Police confirmed the 31-year-old, of Hurst Lane, would face a misconduct hearing scheduled for the first week in October.

The hearing will take place before Chief Constable David Shaw.

Powell had attempted to formally tender his resignation from the force last month but this had been rejected.

Powell had sent the domestic violence victim a string of text messages after meeting her and slept with her six days later. He also admitted sending another female crime victim inappropriate messages.

He was caught when an undercover officer pretended to be a victim of domestic violence.

He was sent to her home and texted her soon after.

Ikea store part-time jobs offer

A TOTAL of 20 part-time Christmas jobs are up for grabs at Wednesbury's Ikea store this festive season

The store, off junction nine of the M6, will be hiring part-time staff for a number of departments including sales, customer services, logistics and food teams.

Ikea spokesman Nadeem Yousaf said: "Recruitment drives give us a fantastic opportunity to meet new local talent and leading up to Christmas we will be recruiting for 20 part time roles.

"We welcome anyone who has a passion for people and home furnishings to join."

People can find out more details and apply for the positions available online.

Special hearing to look at ex-bishop's church swindle

Stole £180k –Gerald Edmund

A FORMER bishop will face court to determine how he benefited from stealing £180,000 from his church.

Gerald Edmund, aged 76, of Lansdown Road, Bristol, was facing sentence last week after admitting one count of fraud and two counts of theft between July 2010 and February 2011. He had admitted swindling the cash from the Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic, where he was a bishop until 2002, and latterly treasurer.

At the sentencing hearing at Birmingham Crown Court, defence barrister Tarlowchan Dubb said his client's basis of plea was 'not acceptable' to the prosecution. He said 'a Newton hearing' to determine the facts of the case was needed. Mr Dubb added he may call witnesses including one from Edmund's family.

"They are not going to be asked anything in relation to where the money went but whether they ascertained a significant change in Edmund's lifestyle as a result of those offences," he explained.

Judge Sylvia De Bertodano told Edmund: "You've pleaded guilty on a basis but the prosecution don't accept that, so there will be a hearing on that matter that takes place on November 22."

Edmund, who is on unconditional bail, will appear at the crown court on that date.

At a previous hearing the court heard that he had swindled the cash over an eight-month period. He pleaded guilty to two counts of theft and one of fraud by false representation when he appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court.

Edmund was prosecuted following a lengthy investigation by West Midland Police's Economic Crime Unit. The Charity Commission is also carrying out an investigation.

According to the watchdog's website the church has an income of £1.17million and charitable spending at £1.35m.

The church is a registered charity which has a convention centre based in Kelvin Way, West Bromwich. The convention centre has an auditorium with seating for 2,500 as well as a chapel and baptism pool.

Care worker blows OAP's savings in spending spree

A CARE worker and her boyfriend have been jailed after stealing a disabled pensioner's bank card and going on a shopping spree that drained his £3,000 life savings – leaving him with just £4.71.

Samantha Hughes snatched the 76-year-old's debit card from his flat in Manor House residential home in Great Barr, where she worked as a care assistant. It is understood the 30-year-old, from Petersham Road, Kingstanding, found the card beneath a cushion, where the pensioner left it for 'safe keeping'.

But rather than hand it back she went on a three-day shopping spree along with boyfriend Steven Reid, 42, from Wootton Grove, Kingstanding.

They withdrew £1,100 in cash and also used the card to buy a TV, bed, car accessories, clothes and vitamin pills, as they wiped out the pensioner's £3,000 savings in a little over 72 hours.

The victim, who has chronic arthritis, noticed his card missing on January 19, five days after Hughes had taken it, and reported it to the bank and then police. By then only £4.71 was left in his account.

Heartbreaking

West Midlands Police officers analysed CCTV taken from stores and cash points and identified Reid leaving GSF car parts, off Fort Parkway, on January 15 having bought accessories worth £241.

The car was traced to his address, and on February 13 police searched the property. They found a TV still in its packaging. Hughes' address was searched where officers found receipts for clothing bought using the pensioner's savings.

Both pleaded guilty to charges of theft and were each sentenced to 10 months in jail at Birmingham Crown Court.

Investigating officer Pc Daniel Pugh, said: "This is a heartbreaking case. An elderly gentleman has had his savings cleaned out by a couple driven purely by greed. Hughes had been working at the care home for several years and was a trusted member of staff, but she found the card and PIN number and couldn't resist the opportunity to go shopping."

Reid claimed to have found the bank card in the Amblecote Avenue care home's car park and thought would 'chance his luck' by seeing if the card worked.

Pc Pugh, added: "They knew the card belonged to a disabled man and that he wasn't a wealthy man. At no stage did they feel guilt or any compassion towards their victim."

Group claw back money lost by bank

A HOUSING group that invested £2 million in a doomed Icelandic bank is just short of receiving all of its money back after clawing back a further £420,000 in the last two years.

Walsall's former Caldmore Area Housing Association, now known as Caldmoreaccord, has recouped £1.8m.

The group, which looks after more than 7,200 homes, four years ago joined forces with other charities that had also invested in the collapsed Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF) bank in a bid to claw back funds.

At the time of the bank's collapse association bosses said there were sufficient cash reserves in its Royal Bank of Scotland account to keep it running.

But the social landlord, which has offices in Caldmore Green, Caldmore, and King Street, Darlaston, and in Sandwell, has merged operations with Accord Group to secure its future.

The association went back into the black in 2011 after merging operations with Accord to cope with the Icelandic banking crisis. It launched legal action with other charities against the bank.

Kaupthing ran into trouble in 2008 after it invested in European retail groups, racking up debts of more than £3 billion.

Other charities which had invested in the bank included the Cats Protection League.

Caldmoreaccord's chief executive Mike Hew said: "With the interest accrued in the last two years we got £420,000 which has taken us to the £1.8m mark."

The landlord has always maintained it was confident of recouping the money.

Rivals give lift to charity

Salesman Colin Stanley, lift fabricator St Clair Cannings and managing director Keith Mallin with colleagues and suppilers at the coffee morning at Oakham Lift Services

RIVALS from the UK lift industry came together in Tividale to share a cuppa and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

More than 400 people from companies across the UK turned out at Oakham Lifts in Hainge Road to tuck into cakes and drink coffee to raise funds for the cancer charity.

The event was organised by employees Jackie Isaac and Carol Whitehouse who have had family members affected by cancer. "I was shocked with the number who turned out to help," said Jackie. "We are definitely going to do it again next year."

To help support the event managing director and founder of Oakham lifts Keith Mallin shut down operations for the day, but agreed to to pay his staff so everyone could enjoy themselves at the fundraiser.

Biggest

He welcomed his main competitors from firms in London and Nottingham. So far they have raise around £750.

It was an early event in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning, which is officially held tomorrow (Friday). Find out more at the www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee website.

NEWS in brief

London concert is tribute to drummer

ROCK band The Charlatans are playing a one-off concert at London's Royal Albert Hall in memory of drummer Jon Brookes who died last month.

The band will play the prestigious venue in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity on October 18. The musician, a West Bromwich Albion fan, died aged 44, from a brain tumour.

A statement released by the band, first formed in Walsall in the late 1980s, said: "The show will benefit The Brain Tumour Charity, which Jon was involved with during his illness. It's our way of raising money for research into and awareness of a cancer that will unfortunately affect many lives, as it has ours."

More than 200 mourners attended the father-of-three's funeral at Christ Church in Burntwood.

Pupils return to school after delay

HUNDREDS of pupils who had been forced to stay at home since the start of the term after building work overran at an Oldbury school were due to return to the classroom this week.

Almost 300 pupils have had their term delayed as building work at Brandhall Primary School during the holidays over-ran by a fortnight, leaving parents furious at the childcare consequences.

Pupils in reception and Year 6 started as usual on September 9, however, pupils in Year 1 to Year 5 – a total of 280 – were unable to return.

The school confirmed that it was reopening fully to all year groups on Mondahy, September 23.

Work experience opportunity event

YOUNG people are being urged to attend an open day to find out more about work experience opportunities with Sandwell Council.

Staff will be on hand to advise 14 to 24-year-olds at West Bromwich Town Hall between 11am and 3.30pm on Wednesday, October 2. There is no need to book.

Jobcentre Plus, the Think Local team and careers advice service Connexions will be attending.

Business website

A NEW-LOOK website has been launched to help companies do business in Sandwell borough. The www.thinksandwell.com site was set up by Sandwell Council as a single point of contact for business

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

CANNOCK Chase Council is going to introduce a 'nominal' 10p-an-hour parking charge for certain car parks in Cannock and Rugeley in a bid to boost its ailing town centres.

The council says the lost revenue will cost the authority around £8,000, which represents around 8p for each of the district's 97,500 residents, so if it helps bring shoppers back into town, it will represent good value indeed.

But welcome though the move is, one wonders whether it kind of misses the point. The problem with car parking charges is not simply a question of finance, it is a matter of convenience, a matter of the sort of welcome that a town extends to its visitors.

It is the whole idea of councils imposing rules and regulations on the people they are supposed to serve, and dishing out punishments to those they consider to have fallen short.

Even with the new 'nominal' charges, shoppers will still need to fumble around for a 10p piece, they will need to know in advance how long they intend to stay, and they will have to affix a silly little piece of paper to their windscreens to avoid the watchful eye of the street patrols.

Presumably, if a 90 per cent cut in parking charges costs the council just £8,000, then it would cost just another £888.88 – less than a penny a head – to make parking charges completely free.

In fact, it would probably cost even less, as they would not need to employ anybody to empty the meters, not to mention those wonderful people dressed up like the cast of Dad's Army issuing the tickets.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

FORMER drug addict and mother-of-seven Cleo Embley, was jailed for 22 months after swindling the taxpayer out of £94,000 by claiming benefits she was not entitled to.

In mitigation, her barrister Mark Stuart told the court Embley 'knew she was going to have to pay the money back'.

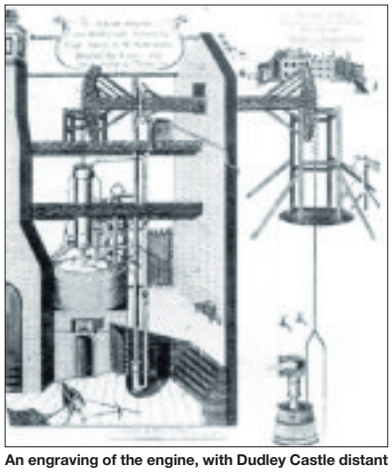
And where was she going to find the money from for that, you might ask. Incredibly, she will continue to receive £237-a-week in Working Families Tax Credit.

So in other words, we will all spend the foreseeable future picking up the tab for repaying the money she stole from us in the first place. Isn't modern Britain just marvellous?

❑❑❑❑❑❑

MORE proof politicians really come from a different planet to the rest of us. Education Secretary Michael Gove says teenagers should give up 'sexting' and instead start posting each other love poems.

He quoted a verse that Napoleon sent to his lover Joséphine de Beauharnais as the sort of thing youngsters might like to send each other: "I hope before long to press you in my arms and shall shower on you a million burning kisses as under the equator." Or 'do u want 2 snog 2nite?' as it might appear on a teenager's phone.



An engraving of the engine, with Dudley Castle distant

Father of steam power – Thomas Newcomen

A sign from the Black Country Living Museum

Engine debate fails to run out of steam

MARK ANDREWS outlines the differing views of historians in the region as to where the birthplace of the steam age is – Dudley, or Wolverhampton?

JOHN Allen and Suhail Rana are agreed on one thing. That the world's first steam engine was built by Thomas Newcomen in the West Midlands.

But there, it seems, the concord ends. Mr Allen, who has spent half a century researching the subject, is adamant that Dudley is the birthplace of the steam age. Mr Rana is convinced it is Wolverhampton.

To the outsider, it probably seems strange that something so innocuous can get people so steamed up. But a presentation by Mr Rana this summer at Wolverhampton's former Molineux Hotel has seen the temperature rise again.

Until comparatively recently, the consensus has always been that Newcomen's first successful steam engine had been installed somewhere in the shadows of Dudley Castle.

In 1932 T E Lones presented a detailed paper to the Newcomen Society concluding that the Earl of Dudley's Coneygree Park, about three-quarters of a mile west of the castle, was the most likely site. Here, the Earl had a coal works, and it was thought that the engine had been installed to drain water from the mine.

This was briefly challenged in 1948 when historian W O Henderson presented a paper to the Newcomen Society arguing that the so-called Dudley Castle engine may have been preceded by one in Wolverhampton, but the experts in London were not convinced. But now Mr Rana, president of Wolverhampton Civic Society, has reignited the debate, saying he has uncovered fresh evidence that steam power was first utilised in Wolverhampton. Intriguingly, Mr Rana does not question any of the evidence put forward by John Allen in his comprehensive paper presented to the Newcomen Society in 1965, which makes a compelling argument that the first steam engine was installed at Coneygree. This includes a print by Thomas Barney, headed "The steam engine near Dudley Castle, invented by Capt Savery and Mr Newcomen, erected by ye later. 1712." Further evidence comes from a contemporary account by Swedish engineer Marten Triewald, who spent 10 years in Britain from 1716, who said that the Newcomen was erected "at Dudley Castle".

A working replica of the Newcomen steam engine, at the Black Country Living Museum. It is believed the world's first steam engine was built in the region

Indeed Mr Rana is happy to concede that the first working steam engine was installed at the Coneygree mine in 1712 – but only after it was moved from its original site in Wolverhampton.

Mr Rana contends that prior to being acquired by the Earl of Dudley, the engine was first used by William Bache, the impoverished owner of a mine near to the end of Cross Street, off the Willenhall Road, just behind Moore Street.

"In 1711, it looks like he was having one last attempt to make the mines successful," he says. "We know he borrowed £250. I believe he contacted Newcomen to build an engine."

Like Henderson in 1948, part of his argument is based on the writings of J T Desaguliers, a leading member of the Royal Society, who wrote in 1744 "they bargain'd to draw water for Mr Back of Wolverhampton, where, after a great man laborious attempts, they did make the engine work."

Assuming that Bache, who died suddenly in August 1712, and Back are one and the same, it would appear to give weight to Mr Rana's case. Except that this was rejected by the Newcomen Society in 1948.

"The difficulty with that is it was written so many years after the event, and the problem with old men is that their memory fades," says Roger Cline, editor of the Newcomen Journal.

But Mr Rana, a 46-year-old computer lecturer at Dudley College, believes that the real breakthrough came with the discovery of a lost diary by a Dr Richard Wilkes, where he wrote in 1736: "Mr Sparrow had fixed a Fire Engine at the End of Wolverhampton next Willenhall, which now began to work…. This Mr. Newcomen most happily effected and built the first that ever drew Water, near to the Place where this now stands."

Mr Allen, a former president of the Newcomen Society from Stourton, is unconvinced. The 87-year-old says there is nothing in Mr Rana's evidence that has not already been considered – and rejected. It is also worth pointing out that Coneygree Park was a vast site, straddling the old Dudley and Tipton boundaries, and although it might have only been a matter of yards from the centre of Dudley, the location of the engine itself might well have been within what is now the borough of Sandwell. Like one of Newcomen's ground-breaking steam engines, it looks like this old debate is set to run and run.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A WOLVERHAMPTON rock band famed for using pyrotechnics in their act were forced to take action after blowing a hole in a stage. Members of The Smokin' Roadie group bought a second hand fire engine to take to gigs after the accident in Chasewater.

HUNDREDS of audiophiles from all over the country descended on Sandwell for the annual British Phonofair exhibition. Old and valuable gramophones, some dating back to the start of the century, were on display at the Teacher's Centre in Oldbury.

A BICYCLE-MAD postman from Wolverhampton was planning to open a museum in his attic after collecting 22 Victorian boneshakers in just over 18 months. John Bates, of Tettenhall, found most of his collection dumped in hedges or rusting away in gardens.

1993...

A VIKING invasion of Walsall took place to mark the start of the town's popular local history fair. But actors from the Longship Trading Company put on displays of family life and traditional crafts rather than looting and pillaging.

A LYE company was set to cash in on a wave of "Blobbymania" after securing a licence from the BBC to produce a range of Mr Blobby gift items. Alpha Marketing produced clocks and lunchboxes based on the character from the popular Noel's House Party programme.

A WALSALL man was named Grabatologist of the Year after amassing a collection of more than 5,000 ties. Tom Holmes of Pelsall was presented with the award by the Guild of British Tie Makers.

2003...

WOLVES owner Sir Jack Hayward put the club up for sale – for nothing. The owner prepared to write off his £40 million investment by handing over his 100 per cent stock holding for the promise of future team and club development by his successor.

A WOLVERHAMPTON man was reunited with a daughter he had not seen for 35 years and a granddaughter he had never met in an emotional get-together. Christopher Taylor met up with daughter Tracey Dwyer after she flew over from Australia.

A BLACK Country builder downed his chisel and sander and picked up a nail file after deciding his future was in the beauty business. Steve Woodhouse, from Dudley, worked in the building trade for three years before opening a nail salon in Wolverhampton city centre.

LETTERS

Personal service of the highest order

IN THE spring of 1973 the then Deputy Borough Architect of Warley, the late Ron Scriven took a risk on youth and I was appointed, for the first time, to the post of Building Surveyor.

At that time our old office overlooked the site, in the centre of Oldbury, where the council house now stands. One year later, Warley and West Bromwich amalgamated and became Sandwell, we moved to the former Municipal Building in Cradley Heath and in truth, I have rarely returned to the now most pleasant centre of Oldbury since those days.

I would therefore like to share with your readers a most uplifting experience. Now the proprietor of my own practice, John Woodcock Building Surveyor, I am currently preparing a home conversion project for a young disabled woman and her carers in Great Barr.

Early one afternoon I found myself grappling with the fine wording of still relatively new planning legislation. After a helpful telephone conversation I decided to visit the planning department in the council house.

In sharp contrast to the frustration of telephone queuing systems which nowadays seem the norm, the service I received from two members of staff was of the very highest order. I was patiently allowed to exercise caution and play 'devil's advocate'", we debated the wording of the law thoroughly and immediately after returning to my office I received a telephone call to say that a helpful letter of confirmation would follow within three days (it arrived in two).

This level of personal service is becoming more difficult to access nowadays but as the two officers, Joshua Singh and Carl Mercer are of the younger generation, perhaps the high quality personal service of Sandwell Council will be retained.

JOHN WOODCOCK
Wylde Green
Sutton Coldfield

Revamp the toilets

I WRITE concerning the lack of public toilets that are open to the public in several places.

Firstly, the toilets at the Bearwood Road bus terminus. They never seem to be open, why? Secondly, the toilets outside Victoria Park in Smethwick. Why do they seem to always be closed?

Thirdly, the toilets situated in Cape Hill, next to the Goose pub in Windmill Lane. These toilets have been closed for at least 40 years, again, why?

Can't they be revamped and put back into public use or be demolished?

How much longer do the residents of Cape Hill, Bearwood and Smethwick have to wait until all the public 'inconveniences' once more become public conveniences?

Will it be another 30 years for Cape Hill before a decision is made? The same can be said for the toilets at Bearwood Bus Terminus and Victoria Park. Come on SMBC make a decision, it is about time you did!

JOHN CASH
Slatch House Road
Smethwick

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Sandwell Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Fire station saves day at residents' annual meeting

WEDNESBURY Fire Station – the residents from Bilston Road Tenants' and Residents' Association would like to send a huge thank you to you for helping them on Thursday, September 19.

Across the road they should have held their annual general meeting for their tenants and residents association, which includes the police housing, repairs, councillors, etc.

It has been going now for over 16 years but where they had booked no one came to open up, so after everyone waiting around for 15 minutes, I went over to the fire station to ask if it would be possible to use their training room and they said 'of course, no problem'.

So thanks to Phil, John, Pete, nice to see it didn't have to be cancelled, plus we did have the bonus of seeing our wonderful firemen!

Community spirit is fantastic in Wednesbury.

COUNCILLOR ELAINE COSTIGAN
Wednesbury

Our visit to Public was revelation

AS WEST Bromwich is not very high on our places to visit list we had relied on reports and comments on the Public Centre; believing it to be the most overrated, over budget and total waste of public money.

Last week we took the opportunity to visit. What a revelation.

Reminiscent of the Pompidou Centre in Paris from the outside, the interior was well planned, easy access and presented scope for activities of various kinds. Shame on Sandwell Council if they intend to dispose of this experiment in social contact that could rival any other local amenity.

If, as reports indicate, it is to be passed over to the local college it could be inaccessible to the general public and deprive them of much needed access to art forms not available anywhere else in the borough.

Perhaps West Bromwich Council is not ready for culture?

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CLUB NEWS

Life made easier for the blind

TRYSULL & SEISDON WI

THERE was no meeting in August but several members enjoyed a Treasure Hunt around Wombourne village followed by a meal.

President Sue Cottrell introduced Peter Moodie to the September meeting. He is from the Beacon Centre for the Blind and told a little of its history.

In 1875 Wolverhampton Society for the Blind was formed and in 1926 became Wolverhampton & District Institute for the Blind. In 1963 it moved to its present site near Sedgley, where the new building was built in 2009.

The Beacon Centre has 72 residential apartments with their own kitchens, where people are encouraged to live independently. A day centre offers a wide range of activities such as bowls, pottery, crafts and IT.

There is also a gym and a youth club. Outside activities include ice-skating, meals out and gardening. There is an employment suite to help people find work and the centre offers free advice and the chance to purchase aids to make everyday life a little easier.

After refreshments Clare Preece organised a quiz, won by Jo Johns and Pam Waldren. Rita Brown won the competition for a scented posy.

At the next meeting on October 17, at Trysull Village Hall, the ladies will be making card boxes with Anne Bayliss. The competition is a handmade Victorian style card.

Guest sets stage for return to home soil

WORDSLEY 'M' TOWNSWOMEN

CHAIRMAN for the day Wendy Lloyd welcomed everyone to the September meeting.

Federation events, given by Ann Birchell, were of the Harvest Supper on October 9, Music Moments at Norton on October 31, the Carol Service on December 14 and a St George's Day event on April 24 next year.

The lunch club will meet at The Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford on October 7 and the Christmas Meal is booked at the Himley Hotel on December 2.

Wendy introduced Linda Kettle who was to be on 'home territory again' having been born in Rowley Regis. Linda gained an O-Level in craft & theatre set sesign, attended Foley College at Stourbridge Art College doing 'A' Level art and then Birmingham School of Theatre Design.

Moving on to London Linda gained further experience in designing dresses and wigs for stage and TV period dramas, meeting many well-known stars including Sean Connery, when designing part of the set of You Only Live Twice.

Others include Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Cliff Richard, Julie Walters, John Cleese and Bruce Forsyth.

Linda worked at Pebble Mill designing and creating many varied and diverse sets and back-ground scenery for 30 years. Her work on Pot Black led her to meeting all the snooker stars.

James Herriot's 'All Creatures Great and Small' was one of her favourite involvements. Linda brought along models of some of the sets she had designed also many photographs of the programmes on which her sets were used.

The next Guild meeting is on Monday October 21 with a quiz and bingo.

Linda Kettle has met Julie Walters and Prince Charles

Update on shoebox collection

GRANGE 'E' GUILD

THE monthly meeting of Grange 'E' guild was held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on September 3.

Chairman Hazel Smith presided. After the minutes and reports were given, Marlene O'Hanlon presented the latest list of items that can be included in the shoe boxes for members to fill for charity.

The boxes may be given to Marlene at the October meeting or at the very latest in November. The completed boxes will then be delivered to a central collection point.

The evening continued with the harvest supper prepared and served by committee members. All members agreed that the evening had been a huge success and the meal was very enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held at Grange Court on October 1 when the guest speaker will be Ian Bott on 'Lost Mansions'.

All visitors will be made most welcome. For further information contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

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Denture Clinic

Infectious laugher, happy moments and enjoying 'me' time – meet denture implant couple John and Gillian.

Love is sharing smiles, a second chance of romance and two . . .

Transformations

Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
(GDC108353)

LOVE is a second chance of romance, embracing life and sharing smiles – lots of them. For retired couple Gillian and John, sharing time together, enjoying holidays, meals out and trips to the theatre, life has opened an unexpected new chapter of happiness after they both lost their partners.

Their laughter is infectious and their zest for life inspirational. The widow and widower, both young 70-somethings, met at a mutual friend's golden wedding party and the rest, as they say, is history.

But John didn't only discover a new soul mate, he also found a new patient for denturist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS (Eng).

Principal of the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley, Steven says: "They're such refreshing company and I am thrilled they are so happy together.

"But I'm also pleased we were able to resolve a long-standing lower denture problem for Gillian as well as create a lovely warm smile for her that suits her personality."

John recalls he was first to attend the Denture Clinic after spending nearly four years "perusing stories in the papers" about Steven's work.

Like many denture wearers he had encountered stabilisation problems with his lower denture as gums receded with the normal ageing process. "I knew I had to get something done because when I was driving my lower teeth could dance up and down," says John.

Crunchy salads

Steven referred him to dental implantologist Jon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the denturist has along-standing professional relationship.

"I decided to go for an implant-retained over-denture which clips on to two fixings. I would never let anything stop me from enjoying a meal out before I had the implants, but things are great now. I can have steak, eat crunchy salads and feel free to have anything off the menu," he says.

Gillian had endured a similar stabilisation problem for two years and was persuaded by John to see Steven because her dentures "were always loose."

Again an implant-retained over-denture was prescribed and Mr Pugh also rebuilt Gillian's upper front teeth with crowns. The results are obvious: Natural looking, functional teeth and an engaging smile.

"Previous dental treatment could never resolve my problems. If I ate out I'd have to order soft options , but I put up with it," says Gillian.

"We laugh a lot, smile a lot and enjoy life. This is my 'me' time," she adds.

And what of their experience at the Denture Clinic? "Steven is like family to us," says John.

Steven added: "By using implant retained over-dentures we can guarantee to resolve stability issues. We prescribe and produce our dentures on the premises and it means I can be fastidious about quality."

Options

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THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

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NEWS

Cat crisis means hundreds of moggies needing homes

Feline foster parents Susan Tranter and husband Andrew are looking after 15 homeless cats and hand rearing kittens

A CAT crisis is swamping the RSPCA across the Black Country as the animal charity launches an SOS for help finding homes for thousands of moggies.

RSPCA branches are desperate for help because of an unprecedented number of cats now in their care.

The crisis has got so bad that some centres in the West Midlands are unable to take in any more moggies at the moment, with several having more than 100 cats waiting for new homes.

The RSPCA's own centres and private boarding establishments used by the charity currently have around 1,700 cats – but on top of that district branches are trying to find homes for more felines.

They include three three-day-old kittens among a litter of five dumped in a box next to a recycling bank in Cradley Heath – two of which had died. Susan Tranter who is looking after 15 cats at her home in Quarry Bank, including the three survivors, said: "The situation is desperate."

Walsall and district branch is 'full to bursting' with around 40 animals and is unable to take any more.

The Wolverhampton branch is also under 'huge pressure', Birmingham Animal Centre and Hospital has 78 cats and cannot take in any more until homes are found for the current occupants.

The charity says some owners can no longer afford to keep their cats or pay vet bills, while others are failing to get their cats neutered.

Peter Bolton, animal operations manager for the RSPCA Midlands and North region, said: "Our staff, whether in an RSPCA centre, branch, hospital or a field officer, all say the same – we are dealing with a cat crisis and it is getting worse."

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NEWS

Trotter way down to the farm to see new arrivals

Countryside ranger Hayley Crump with the rare Welsh breed of piglets that have been born at Forge Mill Farm

AN URBAN farm is welcoming its latest arrivals – two litters of piglets.

They were born at Forge Mill Farm, in West Bromwich, over a week ago and visitors can now pay them a visit.

Workers at the farm said the births were significant as the piglets are of an endangered Welsh breed. They said 11 piglets were born in one litter and 12 in the other. All survived.

The breed is relatively new to the farm which is one of two visitor centres within Sandwell Valley Country Park.

Workers said the piglets would remain in pens with their mother for around seven to eight weeks. They will then be weaned off their mother's milk before being moved to another pen at the farm. Visitors will be able to see the animals and watch them grow.

Delighted

Farm manager Richard Aldis said they were 'absolutely delighted' with the new arrivals. "There are only around 300 of this breed of pigs left, so to start a new herd is extremely significant," he said.

"It is great we have got off to such a good start."

Stockman Robert Woodhall added: "This is a standard-size litter. Sometimes you can get around 15 piglets. The piglets are doing very well and are being looked after by their mothers at the moment," he added.

Forge Mill is a working farm and is open from 10am until 4.30pm each day.

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NEWS

Funds set aside for potholes

ALMOST £900,000 is being set aside to help maintain roads in Sandwell this winter.

Sandwell Council has earmarked almost £500,000 for maintenance work, while a further £380,000 has been allocated for pothole repairs.

The borough is making preparations in case of a repeat of severe weather which led to 80 potholes a day being repaired earlier this year.

Borough finance boss,Councillor Steve Eling said the authority has a budget of £499,602 for maintenance, such as gritting and keeping the roads running.

"It would certainly be adequate on the basis of what you might expect through a normal winter," Councillor Eling said. "Then for potholes we have £380,000 allocated in the budget for road repairs caused by winter damage.

"That should be more than enough but again everything depends on the severity of the weather and, if necessary we will top that up."

by Lisa Wright

Squads

In March, the council blitzed roads in the borough after the big freeze hit the region earlier this year.

A special task force was set up to tackle potholes with four two-man squads tasked with repairing the damaged roads.

And at its peak, up to 500 potholes were being repaired across the borough each week.

Workers were repairing potholes immediately as they found them on footways and carriageways.

In April, the then transport boss, Councillor Derek Rowley, warned that the condition of roads would get worse after cuts to the money allocated for repairs.

Councillors in charge of roads and the economy said they would only be able to temporarily fix the borough's many potholes, after the Government's Local Transport Settlement to the council was slashed by 40 per cent.

The local authority will be given £3.4 million for road maintenance by the Government for 2013/14, which is 40 per cent less than in 2010/11.

The amount available for road maintenance will again fall in 2014/15 to £3,096,000.

On a treasure hunt

TV Salvage Hunters John Tee and Drew Pritchard with owner Brian Smith, centre, at Bridale Architectural Antiques

TELEVISION treasure hunters rummaged through the wares of a Cradley Heath antiques shop in a bid to find hidden relics to restore to their former glory.

Drew Pritchard and his team from the Quest TV programme Salvage Hunters visited the Bridale Architectural Antiques shop.

Presenter Mr Pritchard, along with sidekick John Tee, travel the country hoping to uncover a bargain. Last week they were filming for the fourth series of the show at the Graingers Lane shop.

Brian Smith, aged 69, who has owned Bridale Architectural Antiques for 30 years, said he was delighted when the team from Salvage Hunters asked him if they could visit.

The father-of-two and grandfather of five said: "I have watched the programme for ages, and I love all these types of antiques programmes and so was very pleased when they said they wanted to come. They have done quite a bit of filming and bought a few things. It has been good fun.

"They seem pleased with what they have found, and I'm looking forward to it being on the TV."

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MEMORY LANE

Our boys who helped in decisive Messines victory

Barry and Ann Weaver with Malcolm Cooper, at the grave of Private Walter Boots of Lye, during their pilgrimage to Belgium

The Pool of Peace, a flooded mine crater on Messines Ridge

By Peter Rhodes

UP HERE, on a clear, sunny morning, you can see what the Battle of Messines was all about during the course of the First World War.

This gentle ridge rises near the ancient Belgian town of Ypres. The Flanders plain stretches out below.

Whoever holds Messines Ridge controls hundreds of square miles of territory. From here, as battlefield guide Alan Whittle explains to a party of visitors – on a trip organised by a group which includes former members of 871 Signal troop who were based in Stourbridge – an army can see and destroy anything it chooses.

Pointless

In the summer of 1917 the Germans had held Messines Ridge for three years. They had turned it into an impregnable fortress, raining hellfire and poison gas on the British troops below.

In the space of 24 hours, all that changed. The Battle of Messines was not the usual pointless, bloody charge at the barbed wire that cost so many lives here on the Western Front – the tactics mercilessly parodied in Blackadder Goes Forth. Messines was meticulously planned by General Hubert Plumer and his staff and it was that rarest of things, a great British victory.

Hundreds of miles away, in the old First World War training camp on Cannock Chase, archaeologists are today patiently uncovering a tennis-court sized model of the town of Messines.

By the summer of 1917, the Germans had held Messines Ridge for three years

It is believed to have been built partly as a training aid and partly in tribute to the Tommies who seized the ridge.

On the actual battlefield, nearly 100 years later, visitors place little wooden crosses on the graves of some of those who died in the fighting.

This three-day pilgrimage to Ypres and Messines was organised by the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry Comrades' Association which includes former members of the Stourbridge-based Signals, until it was wound up in Territorial Army cutbacks a few years ago.

Retired major Malcolm Cooper, from Norton, Stourbridge, and former sergeant-major Barry Weaver, from Cradley, who both served with the Signals lay their crosses on the graves of Tommies in Lone Tree Cemetery who died in a terrible miscalculation.

These doomed soldiers left their trenches too soon and were killed in the explosion of a British mine.

It was the mines that won the battle. For months before, British sappers, like those immortalised in the Sebastian Faulks novel and television drama Birdsong, had been digging.

They planted 455 tons of high explosives deep under the German trenches on Messines Ridge.

In the early hours of June 7, 1917, the mines were detonated. Nineteen enormous explosions ripped apart a 10-mile section of the ridge.

In 20 seconds an estimated 10,000 German soldiers were killed. Many, as Alan Whittle explains to his silent audience, simply vanished, vapourised in volcanoes of fire as the mines erupted.

Some folk said they could hear the bangs in London.

Centenary

As all hell broke loose, the officers blew their whistles and 80,000 British, Australian and New Zealander soldiers, supported by tanks and low-flying aircraft, rose from their trenches and swept up on to the ridge, capturing hundreds of Germans who were too injured or shell-shocked to fight back.

Next year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Many more pilgrimages like this will visit France and Belgium to pay their respects in thousands of little acts of remembrance.

At New Irish Farm Cemetery near Ypres, Barry Weaver's wife Ann stoops to plant her wooden cross on the grave of a Black Country lad.

Private Walter Boots, 30, of 15 Green Lane, Lye, was the husband of Eliza and was killed on September 11, 1917, one of almost a million British and Commonwealth soldiers who perished between 1914 and 1918.

NEWS

Businesses, homes and cars are hit by graffiti

Dallows Memorials, Victoria Avenue, Halesowen, which suffered at the hands of the spray-paint graffiti vandal

GRAFFITI was sprayed on dozens of cars, homes and businesses in a spate of vandal attacks across a whole neighbourhood.

More than 20 homeowners woke up to find the tag graffiti on their home walls, garage doors and vehicles in their driveways in Spies Lane and Howley Grange Road in Halesowen.

Quinton Methodist Church and Dallows Memorials as well as dozens of street signs and roadside walls were also targeted by the random spate of vandalism. While most of the graffiti was simply a 'CNS' tag, there were also obscene messages scrawled over people's homes.

by Alex Ross

The vandalism was discovered on Saturday morning – and a suspect has been caught on CCTV spraying a tag on a resident's car in Howley Grange Road just before 4am. The hooded individual can be seen running across the drive, spraying the side door of the parked vehicle before running away.

Sprayed

Childminder Jenny Clulo, aged 42, has the CCTV to help guard her business – but after being woken up by neighbours to alert her to the attack on her car she immediately thought of the 24-hour recorded footage.

She said: "I went straight to have a look, and there in the middle of the night I could see the person who sprayed the car. It was strange to watch. The whole neighbourhood has been shaken by what has happened. I hope the footage might help police."

Four police officers turned up on Saturday morning following calls to inspect the damage and speak to victims. Resident Derek Dowell, aged 61, of Howley Grange Road, had a 'CNS' tag sprayed across his courier van. He now has to have the graffiti removed before returning to work. He said: "I don't understand why someone would do this."

Lynne Edmonds, aged 57, of Howley Grange Road, woke up to find the tag scrawled over the side of her house. She said: "It's not what you want to find when waking up to your weekend."

Renee Gerrard, aged 89, of Bournebrook Crescent, also had her bungalow targeted. Her son-in-law Tony Walker, aged 70, said: "It's disgusting someone could do this."

The graffiti artist climbed Alan Walker's garage roof to scrawl the tag on the side of his house in Spies Lane.

His nephew Jon Evans, aged 29, said: "I've seen the tag sprayed across the town. The person needs to be stopped now."

Last week, Halesowen Inspector Dez Lambert said police were investigating a spate of graffiti across the town. A man was arrested, then released on bail on September 13. Pc Paul Chambers said: "There has been a spate of damage which has occurred in the area. This is something police will not tolerate and will investigate."

Andy Ridley attempts to remove spray paint from his car

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£35k worth of improvements at park for anglers and wildlife

A £35,000 scheme to improve fishing facilities and to help local wildlife is under way at a Smethwick park.

Working in partnership with Sandwell Council, the Environment Agency is carrying out enhancement works in West Smethwick Park to increase access to fishing and improve local wildlife.

The works involve reinstating a stream that was previously covered over and installing fishing platforms, with disabled access, around the lake.

Silt

The stream feeds into the lake via a pond and over the years the pond has filled up with silt.

Last week works started to uncover the stream and remove the silt from the pond. This stage of the works is expected to take around three weeks to complete.

Fish have been rescued from the pond and put into the lake and, when all the silt has been removed from the pond, new fish will be added.

Councillor Maria Crompton, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "This is an excellent scheme for the local community which will improve the park.

"It will provide better facilities for local fishermen and provide disabled access to the area around the lake. "

Installation of new fishing platforms is expected to take place during October.

William Groves from the Environment Agency said: "The enhancement works will create a valuable feature for wildlife in West Smethwick Park and, by installing fishing platforms around the lake, will provide better fishing opportunities for local people."

The total cost of the works is around £35,000, which is being funded by Sandwell Council and the Environment Agency.

Mamma Mia movie on the big screen at Lightwoods

ABBA fans and film buffs can visit Bearwood's own drive-in movie on Saturday.

A special showing of Abba songs musical Mamma Mia! will be screened in Lightwoods Park for its second annual drive-in.

Visitors will be able to drive their own cars into the park and enjoy the film on a huge screen from the comfort of their vehicle.

For one night the organisers have been granted an FM radio frequency, meaning viewers will be able to tune in to the film soundtrack on their car radios but anyone walking through the park at the time will not be able to hear a note.

There will be two 45-minute performances from internationally-renowned Abba tribute act Ever Gold.

Richard Marshall, Chairman of the Friends of Lightwoods Park, said: "This is our second drive-in, and last year we did Grease and sold out. This year we have Mamma Mia! with a bit of a twist, in that we have Ever Gold. They are doing two 45 minute sets based on Abba's 1979 concert at Wembley Arena."

Also on the night will be a Blind Date-style game show.

The gates open at 3pm, with Ever Gold performing from 5.30pm and Mamma Mia! starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £14.50 per car plus £1.50 booking fee, from www.slt-leisure.co.uk website.

Sleep easy with free blanket test

SANDWELL Council trading standards officers have launched a campaign to ensure electric blankets are safe in a bid to ensure residents sleep safely in their beds this winter. Free tests will be held on October 10 at Smethwick Council House, High Street. Call 0121 569 6535 or 6502 to book.

Sandwell Council's Councillor Maria Crompton and Serco's Jason Holtom join Smethwick Youth Council for the 100th Big Spring Clean event at Windmill Super Youth Centre

Youth led 100th big clean up

A TOTAL of 100 Big Spring Cleans have taken place in Sandwell this year and the last one of 2013 was held in Smethwick.

The award-winning annual project, run by Sandwell Council with Serco and Litter Watch, encourages volunteers to improve the look of the borough.

The biggest Big Spring Clean ever in 2013 saw more than 2,500 volunteers focus on litter-picking, planting, painting and helping wildlife – collecting three-and-a-half tonnes of rubbish.

The 100th event of 2013 was carried out by Smethwick Youth Council. The group, based at Windmill Super Youth Centre, cleaned up the streets. Environment boss Councillor Maria Crompton said: "I was there as part of the 100th and final Big Spring Clean of 2013 in Smethwick and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped make it happen."

Dahl theme for students celebrating at academy

PUPILS celebrated the opening of their new £8.8 million school building by holding a series of Roald Dahl-inspired activities.

Shireland Hall Primary Academy's new building was opened last week and pupils had a chance to try out all aspects of new building.

System

The week of celebrations culminated in a Roald Dahl day celebrating the popular children's author, who wrote Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG and many other favourties.

The Smethwick school also opened as an academy this term and has moved to a three form entry system in a bid to cope with increasing numbers of pupils requiring places. The bespoke school was designed by the principal along with the staff, in order to suit the needs of the children.

Charity event raises £4,500

YOUNG people defied the rain to enjoy a fundraising event in Lewisham Park featuring rapper Muslim Belal, comic Prince Abdi and composer Ehsaan Tahmid.

The event, including stalls, raised more than £4,500 for the work of Muslim Aid to help victims of the Syrian conflict

Advertisement Feature

SANDWELL LEISURE TRUST WINS BEST NATIONAL SMALL CHAIN AWARD

Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) has been awarded 'Best National Small Chain' in the Members' Choice Health Club Awards.

SLT also performed a clean sweep in the West Midlands category for the 'Best Mid-Market Club' in the awards ceremony held last night.

Tipton Sports Academy won bronze; Ryland Centre (Bromsgrove) received silver; and former Wednesbury Leisure Centre was awarded gold.

The Members' Choice Health Club Awards are the only awards in the industry where winners are selected purely on the feedback from the people that use the facilities – the members.

SLT also manages the new £18m Portway Lifestyle Centre which opened this week. Reduced memberships are currently available at Â£22.80 per month which includes unlimited gym sessions in the 114 station gym and unlimited access to over 50 fitness classes every week.

Membership for all SLT centres in Sandwell is available at less than Â£1 per day.

The Health Club Awards in partnership with Health Club Management is open to all private health clubs, gyms and leisure centres in the UK.

The awards are unique, with members rating the club of their choice on the quality of facilities, customer service and value for money.

This year, there were 400 entries from a mixture of small independents, public leisure centres, hotel clubs and some of the best known brands in the industry, with a total of 40,000 members casting their votes.

Ash Rai, SLT Deputy Chief Executive/Operations Managers, said: "We are absolutely delighted that SLT has been recognised as best small chain nationally.

"It is fantastic to also receive all of the awards in the West Midlands category for the best mid-market club.

"These awards recognise the excellent level of customer service that our staff provide every day. We would like to thank all of our customers for voting for us."

Sandwell Leisure Trust manages eight leisure centres and a golf course on behalf of Sandwell Council. Leisure centres are based in Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Langley, Oldbury and Tipton. The new leisure centre for Wednesbury will be open in 2015.

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Membership for all SLT centres in Sandwell is available at less than £1 per day.

For more information on Sandwell Leisure Trust centres, visit www.slt-leisure.co.uk or call 0300 012 0121.

NEWS

Focus as entrepreneurs are put in the Public eye

Artist and illustrator Josh Whitehouse who runs Jowybean, displaying his art work at the event held at The Public

AN EXHIBITION helping young entrepreneurs to display their wares has been held at The Public.

The event was organised by the Skills, Work, Enterprise Development Agency, known as SWEDA, and was held to give budding business people the chance to show their ideas.

It comes as part of a 12-month £40,000 project, funded by RBS bank, to help those under 30 get started in business. Some of those who were at the event, and who have been helped by the project, include phone application developers and social enterprises.

Tony Andrews, a business development manager at the West Bromwich-based organisation, said: "The project is to help us support potential young entrepreneurs with creative talents such as digital media, illustration, music, flower arranging, basically anything with a creative element.

Support

"We are helping them with their business skills, but also offering other specialist support to help them make money from their creative talent.

"The event was a showcase for anyone that's been on the project to put out what they have produced and talk through it with visitors and invited guests, and about where they want to go in the future."

One of those at the show was Joshua Whitehouse, 22 from Bearwood, is a graduate and freelance illustrator.

He said: "The project has helped on the organisation side of things, getting things together and picking out the art I will use for shows, and also the business side of things such as managing money. It has been helpful for me."

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NEWS

£18m retirement village unveiled

An artist's impression of how the Midland Heart development in Cradley will look

From left, Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch, contractor Richard Corns, Extra Care director Sara Beamond, Sarah Clee of Midland Heart and ambassador Doreen Parkes

VISITORS were given a preview of a new £18 million retirement village which is being built overlooking a park on the site of a former school in Cradley.

Work to build the flagship 120-bed apartment complex on the old Cradley High School site, neighbouring Homer Hill Park, is already under way.

Officials from developer Midland Heart have showcased what residents can expect when they move into the modern extra care housing scheme set to open in 2015.

The scheme is designed for people aged over 55 to live independently in their own apartments all while accessing activities, amenities and support if required.

Almost 100 residents attended a showcase event at the Copthorne Hotel, in Brierley Hill, to learn more about the new extra care development. They were able to view plans and models and could also take part in a range of activities which will be available to residents who choose to move into the new complex.

The organisation's head of older people's services, Sarah Clee, said: "This was an extremely exciting day for all of us involved in the project and we had some hugely positive comments from visitors."

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, attended the event and saidd: "We are tremendously proud to be working with Midland Heart to help significantly improve housing options for older people."

Police seize plants worth £1m in raids on cannabis farms

POLICE have seized cannabis worth £1 million following two drugs raids which uncovered almost 1,500 plants.

Officers from Sandwell raided addresses in West Bromwich and Great Bridge.

The first property was raided in High Street, West Bromwich, on September 18 after it was sold at auction a few months ago and officers had since kept an eye on it.

Several rooms had been adapted for cannabis cultivation with sleeping quarters for round-the-clock care of the drug crop.

The electricity supply had been bypassed and energy suppliers had to dig up the road outside to make the premises safe.

Approximately 450 plants were taken from the premises for destruction.

A second warrant was executed in Market Place, Great Bridge, where more than 1,000 plants were discovered over three floors of the building. Police have charged two men with the cultivation of cannabis.

One man, aged 26, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty and will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 18. A second man, aged 29, also no fixed addres,s will stand trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court on December 16.

Pc Andy Ward with cannabis plants seized in Sandwell

Pc Andy Francis said: "This is a significant quantity of drugs taken from the streets with around a million pounds taken out of the pockets of drug dealers.

"Some people may be under the illusion that cannabis is a harmless drug. The reality is quite different. We know that cannabis farms cultivate more than drugs – they are often managed by organised gangs who are heavily involved in gun crime, money laundering, human trafficking and serious violence.

"The electricity supply fuelling the heaters which create a tropical environment for the plants is almost always illegally connected to the mains supply by unqualified electricians, putting neighbouring properties at serious risk of fire.

"I would strongly urge people with suspicions about cannabis farms in their area to call us."

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NEWS

Lucky escape as car smashes into a wall

'I am so glad nobody was injured' – Lynda Brown with her grandchildren beside her wrecked garden wall in Lones Road

A CAR smashed into the garden wall of a family home in West Bromwich after veering off the road.

The couple living in the house in Lones Road, West Bromwich, had returned home from a day out with their grandchildren just moments before the crash happened.

No one was injured in the incident on Sunday night.

Grandmother-of-two Lynda Brown said: "We had just pulled up on the drive and got into the house after a day out at Sandwell Farm. Then we heard a loud bang and came outside to see a car had hit our garden wall. I am so glad nobody was injured."

Mrs Brown was at home with husband Kennedy, as well as grandchildren Amara, five, and 18-month-old Jasmine, who were spending the day with them. "Some of the debris flew from the wall and it could have gone through our patio window," she added.

The house is beside a crossroads in a residential area near to Albion's Hawthorns stadium.

It was not the first time cars have caused damage to the Brown's property. Just a few months ago, the family's car was struck by another vehicle when parked outside their house.

Police and firefighters were called to help remove the badly damaged BMW from the wall after it crashed at around 5.30pm.

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NEWS

Owners urged to act on school hit by fire

by Naomi Dunning

THE owners of a former school partly destroyed in an arson attack are being called upon to restore the building to its former glory.

The former West Bromwich Grammar School was targeted in a blaze which destroyed part of the roof and caused significant damage to the historic building.

There are now calls for the Homes and Communities Agency, which owns the building, to restore it to its former glory. Fire crews were called to the blaze at 7pm on Thursday, and at its height 55 firefighters were on the site.

Parts of the Victorian building were completely destroyed, while others were untouched, including the blue plaque to the actress Madeleine Carroll who attended the school.

Empty

Fire investigators believe the cause was arson, and police are investigating.

The building was a grammar school between 1904 and 1964 and catered for pupils from across the region. More recently it has been home to Sandwell College's hair and beauty department and the performing arts courses.

The students moved out in February 2012 when a new college building in nearby Spon Lane opened. Since then the building has been empty.

The Homes and Communities Agency, which bought the building from the college, is due to undertake a redevelopment of the town's High Street, which includes the demolition of the neighbouring Sandwell College tower. Hateley Heath councillor Paul Sandars said many people would be sad to see the old school damaged. He said: "It is a beautiful building."

He said the former grammar school was hit by arsonists in 1976 when part of the roof was destroyed. He said: "It really is a building we should look after." Chris Walker, aged 20, of Hill Top Close, Birmingham, was a performing arts student at the college when it was based in the building. "I would love it to be restored, but now I just think it will demolished," he said.

The Homes and Communities Agency said full structural surveys of the building will begin this week.

The interior of the building before it was targeted by arsonists last week

The roof and other parts of the former school were badly damaged in the fire

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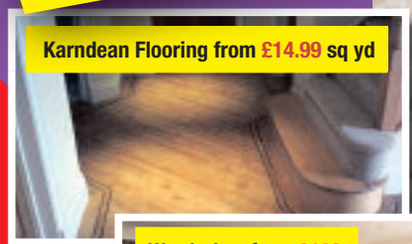
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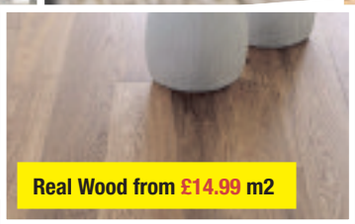
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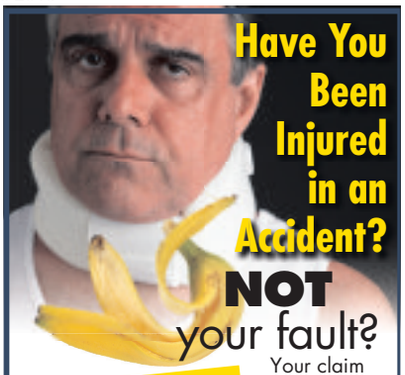

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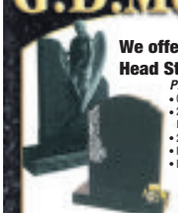

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NEWS

Bomber back on target for honour to mark his debut

Baggies heroes Graham Williams, left and Tony Brown with Sandwell Mayor Linda Horton

The First Day Cover featuring Tony 'Bomber' Brown

SANDWELL'S Mayor has backed an honour being given to a West Bromwich Albion legend.

Super striker Tony 'Bomber' Brown will feature on a limited edition collector's item to mark the 50th anniversary of his Baggies debut.

He will appear on a commemorative envelope, known as a First Day Cover, due to be issued on Saturday, – half a century after his first Albion appearance.

Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Linda Horton, was on hand to congratulate 'Bomber' for his honour when he visited Sandwell Council House in Oldbury on Tuesda.

She said: "As a Baggies fan I am very pleased that Tony Brown, who is a Freeman of the Borough of Sandwell, is being honoured in this way and particularly delighted that the postmark on the envelope will be West Bromwich."

Speaking about the honour Tony Brown said: "It is smashing. I think it looks superb and am very grateful that it has been released to coincide with the 50th anniversary of my debut.

All the proceeds will go towards The Celebration statue which is a fantastic cause."

Bomber scored on his debut which was a 2-1 victory against Ipswich Town, and went on to become the team's top goalscorer of all time.

Generations

His captain that day was Graham Williams who joined him at Sandwell Council House to meet the mayor. Bomber went on to score a record breaking 279 goals in 720 games for the Baggies.

All proceeds raised from the sale of the First Day Covers will go towards The Celebration statue which will mark the achievements of Cyrille Regis, Brendon Batson and Laurie Cunningham.

The trio blazed a trail for future generations of black players in English football when they played for the Baggies in the late '70s.

There will be a run of 75 first edition envelopes signed by Tony Brown and teammates Graham Williams, Stan Jones and Alec Jackson – who played alongside him on his debut.

A run of 75 second edition envelopes will be personally signed by Tony Brown and his former West Bromwich Albion captain Bryan Robson whose official Royal Mail Stamp will be included on all envelopes.

The Celebration Statue project is being lead by Black Country businessman Jim Cadman. To find out more visit **www.celebration statue1979.com** or call Mr Cadman on 07971 624627.

Jail for thief who claimed he took cars in work role

A CAR thief who posed as a recovery driver for a finance company to steal cars worth more than £150,000 has been jailed for five years.

The collection of 12 stolen vehicles, which included a brand new BMW, was discovered after a spate of car thefts in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham.

An investigation was launched and a police officer trawled through hours of CCTV footage before noticing a transporter truck appeared regularly around the time of the thefts. The vehicle was traced to a factory unit in Keen Street, Smethwick, where a warrant was executed in May last year. Police found items belonging to the cars' owners, as well as the front end of the 60-plate BMW stolen from Somerset Road, Edgbaston, and an Audi A4 taken from Rolfe Street, Smethwick.

None of the other vehicles taken in March and April last year was found in the unit but a number of receipts from a local scrap merchant showed that car body shells had been sold to them unwittingly.

The unit owner, Robert Lowe-Thompson, aged 27, from Devonshire Road, Handsworth Wood, was arrested on suspicion of the thefts, but denied the offences.

Pc Leanne Chapman, who was part of the investigation team, said: "Lowe-Thompson was a man with no previous convictions, yet he spun an elaborate web of lies, producing documents from a finance company, allowing him to 'recover' the vehicles.

Witness

"These documents all turned out to be false, and he was also charged with fraud.

"While on bail, Lowe-Thompson continued his fraudulent activity as he attempted to secure finance on another low-loader using false bank statements.

"He was re-arrested and had no option but to plead guilty to a further charge of fraud."

At his trial at Birmingham Crown Court, Lowe-Thompson produced a statement and an invoice from a witness, so the trial was adjourned in order to question the witness.

Again the statement turned out to be false and on August 6 Lowe-Thompson was arrested for perverting the course of justice.

Lowe-Thompson finally faced the charges at Birmingham Crown Court on September 4 and after a five-day trial, the jury found him guilty on all counts. He was sentenced on Tuesday to three and a half years for each of the 12 car thefts to run concurrently, 18 months for two charges of perverting the course of justice to run concurrently with each other, but consecutively to the thefts.

He also received eight months for each of the two fraud charges to run concurrently.

Cash cuts put end to liaison training for council leader

THE LEADER of a cash-strapped Sandwell Council has been taking lessons on how to communicate with staff and businesses while cutting jobs.

But Councillor Darren Cooper has now stopped the £2,700-a-year sessions as Sandwell Council tries to save £100 million over five years.

The Labour councillor revealed he had been having monthly meetings with Steve Bedser, an executive director at Fairy Dust Consulting, since he took over as leader in 2009. Mr Bedser is also a Labour councillor in neighbouring Birmingham but Councillor Cooper said they never discussed policies.

Difficult

He said the training was to help him be an effective leader dealing with people from 'all walks of life'.

"I became leader at a very difficult time", he said. "I had to move on a former chief executive and take the decision to cut the number of senior directors from 26 to 13.

"Doing that has saved £4m a year which I think has justified the £2,700 a year cost of this training.

"But every little helps when we're facing massive cuts and I also don't feel I need the training any longer. So I stopped having it at the end of June."

He said that the training covered different aspects of communication including body language.

Councillor Cooper said: "I have a qualification as a mental health nurse but when I became leader I still saw myself as a kid from a council estate who had entered a completely different world and had to make some difficult decisions."

Park gym opening works out well for fitness fans

Happy faces – Tividale Albion FC and the Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy Sports Council celebrate the opening

FITNESS fans can work out in the great outdoors after a £20,000 new gym was opened at a park.

The gym at Tividale Park was built following a consultation with users by Sandwell Council. It was officially opened at a community event on Saturday afternoon.

Dozens of families attended the event, which featured football and cricket games in the parks multi-use games arena.

There was also a bouncy castle provided by Tividale Gurdwara. Free samosas and curry were also handed out. Tividale Children's Centre did face painting and Spotlight Dance Group also performed

Important

Sandwell Council's deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain said he hoped the gym would improve the park.

He said: "We discussed with users what they wanted and we came up with the gym, which will be for young and old people to enjoy while they come and visit the park.

"The parks are important to us and we will, where possible, do what we can to improve them."

Councillor Steve Trow, Oldbury town lead member, said: "The opening of the gym is the latest in a series of improvements at Tividale Park, which has also included the installation of a multi-use games area, two children's play areas, a cricket pitch and zip wire."

Parmjit Sahota, the council's neighbourhood manager for Oldbury, added: "There is a strong momentum to keep improving the park."

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NEWS

Couple tie the knot in the old fashioned way

Steve Evans and Jo Lavender walk through the streets of the Black Country Living Museum in Tipton Road, Dudley

MORE than 100 guests turned the clock back to Victorian times for a wedding with a difference at the Black Country Living Museum

Police officer Steve Evans married his bride Joanne Lavender in a spectacular ceremony at the Black Country Living Museum.

Around 50 of the guests were dressed in 19th century-style finery for the wedding, with the rest wearing the traditional Black Country outfits of flat caps and waistcoats. And instead of having a formal wedding reception at a plush hotel, they decided to have a good old-fashioned knees-up at the Bottle & Glass Inn in the museum village.

"We wanted to break every single rule in the book," said Steve, 42, from Coseley. "We are all proper Black Country folk. They have done weddings at the museum before but this is one of the biggest they have ever done."

The vows were taken in the museum's school house, and supper came courtesy of the museum's traditional fish and chip shop. Guests also took part in a sing-along at the pub, accompanied by an old-time pianist who handed out the song sheets.

Later in the evening the party assembled in the courtyard for a live band, featuring Joanne's brother.

With Steve a keen Wolves fan, while Joanne, 37, supports West Bromwich Albion their cake reflected their allegiances.

"We have had a special cake made, with the one half in Albion colours, and the other half in Wolves gold-and-black," added Steve.

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NEWS

Upper GI Blues team backing hospital research study appeal

From left, clinical nurse specialist Jo Harvey and research nurse Sandra Prew, with Kate Childs, Heather Parker, Lynne Grigg, Barry Parker and Brian Childs, helping at Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Awareness Week in Sandwell

A PATIENTS' group is on a recruitment drive to encourage more people to take part in a research study at Sandwell Hospital.

The Upper GI Blues is holding a number of events for upper gastrointestinal cancer awareness week, which started on Monday, and the main aim is to recruit more people for the study.

Dr Nigel Trudgill, gastroenterology consultant at the hospital, has been carrying out one of the largest research programs into upper gastro cancers for the past five years. To get more information for earlier diagnosis, his research team is asking people from the area who visit the hospitals or their local GP to enrol in a new reserach programme. This applies to people with conditions such as Barrett's oesophagus, acid reflux, IBD, Crohn's disease, colitis or gullet, stomach or pancreatic cancers.

Focus

Brian Childs, chairman of the group, based at the hospital on Lyndon, West Bromwich, said: "The main focus of this research has been a particular cancer called adenocarcinoma. It affects the upper part of the oesophagus. It's actually quite common in the West Midlands.

"The research could be anything from a check-up to a questionnaire. We really want as many people as possible to sign up to the research."

To help fund the research program, Upper GI Blues will be holding a number of fundraising events at Sandwell Hospital and their charity shop in Bearwood Road, Bearwood throughout the awareness wee to September 28.

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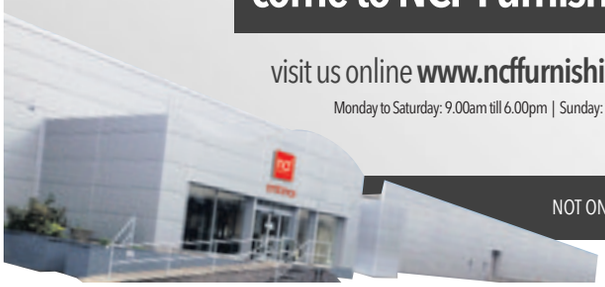

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MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003**

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765**

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449**

HONEST beautiful black female, N/S, seeks honest, caring, white man, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405395**

GORGEOUS black attractive female, N/S, seeks genuine caring white male, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405887**

CLAIRE 18 single with OHAC looking for mature relationship with male 40-50yrs to pamper me and show me a really good time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407483**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

LINN young looking divorced female, attractive, honest, caring and reliable looking to meet similar N/S animal loving male to enjoy happy times, tlc, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407473**

TALL dark, handsome male, 54, WLTM female, any age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407559**

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

BECCA 5ft 9ins, curvy, good job, seeking black/mixed race male, 35-45, 6ft plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391693**

SARAH slim, honest, caring, attractive looking for that special guy to spend special times with, looks unimportant, similar lonely hearts need only apply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407507**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 407321**

SALLY neglected 27yr old single female looking for genuine guy to help mend my broken heart and enjoy lots of adult fun times along the way. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407499**

5FT 10ins slim brunette female with GSOH, Down to earth, fun and quirky, looking for similar male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403991**

ARE you my Knight in shining armour? Young 65yr old female, smoker, seeks genuine guy, 55-60 who is slim in Walsall area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376742**

ANNE 57, nurse, 5ft 4ins, likes swimming, cooking, countryside, looking for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405645**

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139**

LARGE female, seeking male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406027**

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

PATRICIA likes travel, cooking, socialising, seeks honest, sincere white male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402053**

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169**

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405277**

46YR old black British female, 5ft 4ins, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404987**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

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SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

FEMALE 50, 5ft 7ins, average build, fair hair, easygoing, seeking tall, slim male, 47-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395793**

SEXY mature female, in great condition, but has been without for far too long! Looking for intimate adult fun without commitment. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358186**

FEMALE 41, 5ft 7ins, seeks male for nights in/out, romance and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397361**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923**

SHY lady, 38, seeks understanding, genuine, sincere male, 40-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400981**

66YR old widow, seeks male for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393436**

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BROADMINDED 67yr old male, fit, active, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks N/S female, open minded, 62-69 for genuine LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407785**

MALE 50, likes country walks, nights in/out, swimming, meals out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393157**

40YR old male, seeks female, 30-40 in Leamington Spa/Rugby area for romance and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407551**

TONY 32, honest, caring, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407395**

JOHN 50, seeking mature female for no strings daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394148**

MALE likes pubs, socialising, football, seeking black female, 46-57 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407595**

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SINGLE male, youthful, serene, seeks similar down to earth non materialistic female to become everlasting soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407711**

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313**

HANDSOME chap, looking N/S female for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407631**

PATSY 50, decent looking, seeking any aged female for company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407373**

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BLACK Male, young-looking 40s, seeks large white Female, 40 plus, for fun, laughter & good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341689**

JEROME black Afro-Caribbean, 5ft 11ins, slim, intelligent, witty, outgoing, well spoken, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392817**

MALE 5ft 9ins, blond hair, into soul music, WLTM fun loving, caring black female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404647**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, WLTM genuine, pretty female, 24-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407753**

CHRIS divorced, 55, smoker, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407715**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

SINGLE male 59, no ties, honest, loyal, serene nature, seeks mature female with the view to becoming lifetime soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404527**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, seeks sexy, genuine female, 24-42 for adult fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407411**

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NEWS

Clare overcomes fear to groom dogs

Clare Adlam of Rowley Regis overcame her fear of dogs after an attack as a child to set up a dog grooming business

FOR as long as she can remember Clare Adlam has been afraid of dogs.

The mother-of-one was nervous around the animals even before she was bitten by an Alsation, when she was an 11-year-old schoolgirl,.

But remarkably, Miss Adlam, from Rowley Regis, has now turned her back on her computer and IT equipment sales business to open her own mobile pet grooming company.

The 42-year-old, who lives with partner Sally Stokes, also 42, in Eagle Close, Rowley Regis, said: "I got bitten by an Alsation when I was little, I have always been scared.

"As long as I can remember I have always been scared of dogs unless they were small and I knew them, but even then I was nervous."

Clare has owned dogs of her own. Mongrel Maisie passed away two years ago, while she now owns two Shih Tzus – Jasmine and Teddy. And it was while running her former business, The Comp Port at Blackheath Market, for the last 13 years selling computer equipment and mobile accessories, that she began to overcome her fears of other dogs thanks to the nearby pet stall at the market.

She eventually took over The Pet Stall, which she continues to run and it was after taking one of her own pets to a grooming salon that she decided to take matters into her own hands.

Clare said: "What led me to grooming was Jasmine is quite a nervous dog and she came back from the groomers and she was sick, she wouldn't eat and was shaking. So I bought myself the home kit and did it myself."

Enjoying it so much, Clare embarked on a dog grooming course at All Breed Academy in Pensnett in May, sold her IT business and now runs her own mobile company – The Mobile Dog Spa.

Boss of veil row college to leave

THE BOSS of a college at the centre of a row over religious veils has announced she is to step down.

Dame Christine Braddock, who presided over Birmingham Metropolitan College's controversial takeover of Stourbridge College, is to go by the end of next year.

The announcement comes soon after the college made a U-turn following the introduction of a ban on items of dress that cover the face, which also affected students wearing religious veils.

Dame Christine Braddock

Retire

But Dame Christine told The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star that her decision to leave was made months ago.

Dame Christine, who took up the post in 1998, said: "That was a college issue, a college decision, this is a personal decision."

She added: "I am not resigning, I have no plans to resign. I am going to retire as most people do when they get to my age.

"It was last year we began to put succession plans in place. You can't run an organisation of this size without succession plans in place early. We would not be doing our duty as board members if we were not planning my successor."

Dame Christine said she had told the board of her intention to retire, but had not yet given official notice to leave the organisation.

She said: "I have to give a year's notice so in terms of that I have only given an intention to retire in due course at this stage.

"I have been here for 16 to 17 years, I think I have done enough."

The news was made public following the appointment of the college's new chairman of the corporation, Steve Hollis. He takes over from Vij Randeniya.

One of Mr Hollis' first tasks will be to find a replacement for Dame Christine.

He said: "The board has had a phased approach to succession planning, with my own appointment phase one is complete and now we will begin the search for a successor to Christine.

Transition

"She will continue in her role until the end of the academic year, to enable her to support her successor so a smooth, orderly transition can take place."

The college became the first in the region to bring in the ban for 'security reasons' and students were told to remove face coverings, including caps and hoodies.

But the ban on the niqab, a veil that only leaves a slot for the eyes, was scrapped after being criticised by some Muslim girls.

Thief mugged before hearing

A THIEF showed up for his court case after being robbed of £5 hours before his hearing.

Richard Stephens was at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court facing charges of theft from a shop and going equipped for theft. He went into Boots at Bentley Bridge in Wednesfield on August 29 and stole razor blades. However, Stephen's defence solicitor, Mr Suresh Joshi, told the court that the thief had been robbed hours before he was due in the dock.

Mr Joshi said: "Mr Stephens should be in A&E but instead he is here for his court appointment. He was set upon and left with a lump on his head and swollen jaw and £5 was taken from him this morning. It is an indication of how serious he takes these matters."

Mr Roger Blezzard, prosecuting, told the court that 47-year-old Stephens had gone into Boots last month and was seen taking razor blades before leaving the store without paying.

Limped

Mr Blezzard added: "He was detained relatively close by and was in possession of a plastic bag that had been lined with metal foil."

Stephens of Upper High Street, Wednesbury, limped into court and rubbed his head throughout the hearing.

He pleaded guilty to both charges. Magistrates adjourned his sentence until Tuesday, October 1.

Stephens was given conditional bail.

Benefits swindler is told to sell home

A MOTHER from Tipton who took more than £46,000 by swindling the benefits system has been ordered to sell her home to repay the money.

Katherine Smith collected income support and Jobseeker's Allowance that she was not entitled to for years after lying that she was a single mother living alone, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

In fact she and her partner Peter Scott shared the house, said Mr Harpreet Sandhu, prosecuting.

Smith, now 39 and of previous good character, fraudulently claimed income support for years before illegally picking up Jobseeker's Allowance, the court was told.

Smith, of Ryland Close, Tipton, pleaded guilty to cheating the public revenue of income support between 2003 and 2009. She admitted a similar offence involving Jobseeker's Allowance between 2009 and 2012.

Jailed

The crimes involved a total of £46,073.

Smith was jailed for eight months for the offences in May. She reappeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week where it was said Smith's only financial asset which could be seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act was her home, valued at around £65,000.

This is, however, part-owned by her partner and it was calculated that once estate agent and solicitors' fees were taken off the profits, Smith would be able to pay back just £6,697.

The judge ordered Smith to pay back the full amount within six months but that time limit could be extended.

If Smith fails to pay after the extension, she could face a further jail term of four months.

NEWS FEATURE

Brother's shock phone call that led to reunion

John with his book, Finding Thomas, about a family reunion

John Fisher, who is standing at the back second left, with his siblings Diane, Sandra, Steve, David, Alison, Thomas, Tracy, Mark and Susan

JOHN Fisher had just got in from work when the phone rang. When he picked up the receiver he could scarcely believe his ears.

"Hello, I'm your brother Thomas," said the man on the other end of the line.

John, now aged 58, had not seen Thomas since he was a baby. The pair, and a third brother Stephen, had grown up in a troubled family and were separated after being taken into care in 1963.

But John's success in tracking down his long-lost sibling led him to discover he had two other brothers and a sister, and took him on a seemingly endless quest to bring the family together.

Now John, a retired property ser-vices manager with Dudley Council, has put pen to paper to reveal his story in a moving new book.

John, of Spring Vale Close, Coseley, vividly remembers the day he received the telephone call which would change his life.

Determined

"My initial instinct was simply to start crying, but at the same time to maintain control of my emotions in order to take in what was happening. My mind was awash with thoughts, was this really Thomas? Was someone playing an awful trick on me? I felt at that moment that I needed to confirm to myself that this really was him."

By amazing coincidence, both brothers had been in touch with social services in an attempt to trace each other, with both of them visiting the council offices within a day of each other.

Speaking to the Express & Star, Mr Fisher says: "You can call it spooky, fate or whatever you want. But 24 hours after I went into the social services office and left my details, he went in to do the same thing." Mr Fisher says he was determined to find his family after being without them for so long. "I'd got my own life, my own children. But I felt there was something missing."

He had wondered what had happened to his younger brother ever since the pair were separated when he was just eight years old and Thomas was 17 months.

by Mark Andrews

His mother Margaret had been committed to a hospital while suffering from mental illness, and his father Josiah reluctantly agreed that he was unable to bring the children up alone. Despite their problems and their children being taken away, the couple had more children who were also taken into care. After Margaret died from cancer, Josiah married someone else and had another three children.

John remained in contact with his father and Stephen, two years his junior, but it would be decades before he would see Thomas again, later discovering he had been adopted.

His book, Finding Thomas, tells how the pair were reunited at an emotional meeting in the car park of the Apple Tree pub in Roseville, Coseley, 19 years ago, and how they have become close friends since. The following years would be spent trying to trace the other three siblings – Mark, David and Susan – who were born after John, Stephen and Thomas were taken into care.

Susan now lives in Cardiff but the others are in the Black Country - Thomas and David in Dudley, Mark in Wednesbury and Stephen in Sedgley.

John and Stephen's search for their siblings was featured in the The Chronicle in 1989, and the pair employed a genealogist which would eventually see the whole family brought back together in 2007.

The book also tells the harrowing story of John's troubled childhood, which saw another brother and sister die during childhood, as well as a life of abject poverty growing up in a dysfunctional family.

But despite his troubled start, John, says there is no aspect of his life he would have changed, as were it not for an extraordinary chain of events which saw him eventually live with his grandmother, he would never have met his wife Diane.

He says: "I went to live with an aunt in 1963 but three years later my father wanted me to move in with him and his mother. But he then moved out and left me with my grandmother. Living there I went to Bishop Milner School and that's where I met Diane." In the book he reveals: "She has become the only person in my life I can confide in, share my pain, my thoughts, my disappointments, my joy and elation. She is my life breath."

● **Finding Thomas is available in selected bookshops and through Amazon.**

John Fisher as a young child, the picture is used on the front cover of his book on the reunion

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

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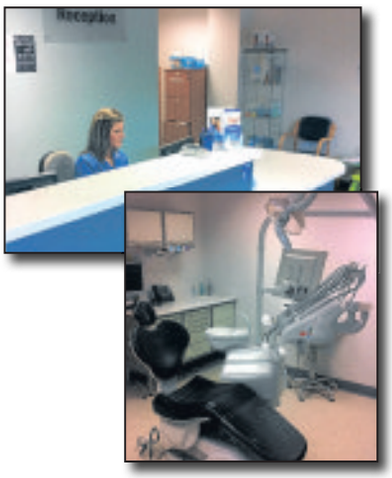

In light, airy surroundings with a large free car park right outside, the premises were purposely designed to provide patients with a positive experience while they receive the latest dental treatments and routine care.

As well as the state-of-the-art dental equipment and consulting rooms, the team at the practice have recognised the desire of many to have a range of convenient and flexible appointment times. That's why they are now opening up to 8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with appointments available every Saturday morning between 9am and 1pm.

There are no waiting lists here! The dental practice is actively welcoming new patients who would like to register for NHS dental care, and is able to book first appointments in a matter of days.

Practice Manager, Dina Hedges, has spoken of her vision for the West Bromwich dental practice.

"All of us at the Bridge Park Dental Practice are committed to making it easy and enjoyable for people to get the best dental care. Good oral health is such an important part of people's health and wellbeing. By regularly visiting the dentist you can ensure your teeth and gums are as healthy as possible."

Dina continued, "Our new cosmetic procedures such as teeth whitening are becoming increasingly popular and we can offer a range of treatments that fall outside the scope of NHS dental care."

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Oldbury

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In 1974, Oldbury became part of the new Sandwell Metropolitan Borough (a merger between the county boroughs of West Bromwich and Warley) and was then part of the West Midlands Metropolitan County, which no longer exists as an administrative authority. Sandwell's headquarters are situated in Oldbury Town Centre.

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FOCUS ON...

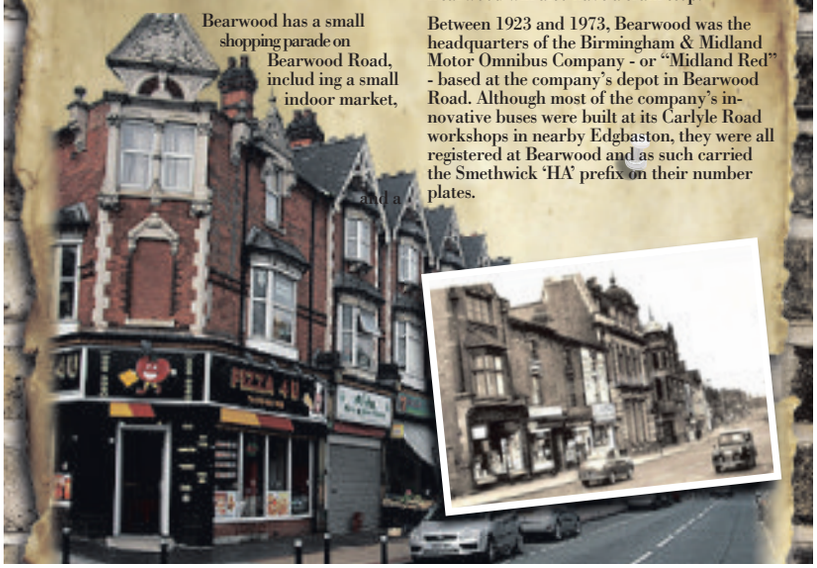
Bearwood

Bearwood is an area, originally a tiny hamlet, astride the border of Sandwell, West Midlands, England, and Birmingham with much of it lying in the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough in Smethwick including the Bearwood Road and a small part belonging to Birmingham. Bearwood like many areas of the West Midlands conurbation has a local sense of place, although has become absorbed into Smethwick proper. Many locals still use the term "The Bear" especially referring to "The Bear Hotel" located in Bearwood.

Bearwood has a small shopping parade on Bearwood Road, includ ing a small indoor market, and a number of other local amenities such as banks, supermarkets, bakeries and pharmacies. There are several opticians and a large NHS dental practice situated on this road. The Birmingham Outer Circle bus routes (the 11A and the 11C), which link Birmingham's suburbs, have stops here. Bearwood also has a number of restaurants serving a range of different cuisines.

Bearwood Road leads northwards to Smethwick High Street, and at the southern end joins Hagley Road, one of the main arterial routes into Birmingham from the M5 at Junction 3. If the plans for the Midlands Metro extension along the Hagley Road are realised, Bearwood will also have a tram stop.

Between 1923 and 1973, Bearwood was the headquarters of the Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company - or "Midland Red" - based at the company's depot in Bearwood Road. Although most of the company's innovative buses were built at its Carlyle Road workshops in nearby Edgbaston, they were all registered at Bearwood and as such carried the Smethwick 'HA' prefix on their number plates.



BEARWOOD FISH BAR
FISH & CHIPS

New owners Andy and Amanda are rebranding Bearwood Fish Bar with a traditional theme. The pair are going back to basics with proper chips cut from locally grown potatoes prepared and cut on the premises and fresh fish, landed at Grimsby and delivered to the shop the same day. They also serve traditional Black Country Faggots, made locally, wrapped in caul and served in homemade onion gravy.

Andy grew up at home in a family owned Fish & Chip shop having learnt his trade from an early age he moved on, to run his own Chip Shop in Hinckley. Amanda was part of the management team of an award winning Chippie in Hartlepool before the pair met and moved to Bearwood. They make a formidable pair running a clean and efficient shop producing excellent food at a reasonable price.

Their new shop has a large seating area, where you can take a load off and enjoy your food at a leisurely pace. If you feel like eating in, you could take advantage of their senior special. Available throughout the week between 12:00 and 15:00 this offer includes: Cod and chips, a pot of tea, bread and butter, mushy peas and tartar sauce. For £4.50!! We challenge you to find better value for money anywhere!!

If you don't feel like making the trip to see them then use their delivery service and they will bring your food to you. Call them on: **0121 420 4300** (minimum order value £10 free delivery within three mile radius).

Regular visitors to the shop are rewarded with portions of free fish and chips, though the shops loyalty scheme. After collecting six orders over a value of £5 you qualify for a free regular fish and chips.

Why not drop into the shop and pick up your card?

0121 420 4300

101-102 Three Shires Oak Road, Smethwick B67 5BT

Other offers and promotions are planned for the coming months, you can be among the first to hear about these by liking the shops page at www.facebook.com/bearwood.fishbar .

WEBB'S OF BEARWOOD
and Webb's Walled Garden Gift Shop
www.webbswalledgarden.com

DUTCH BULBS
Our usual top quality Dutch bulbs are here!
Call now and see what a great selection we have.
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- Tulips
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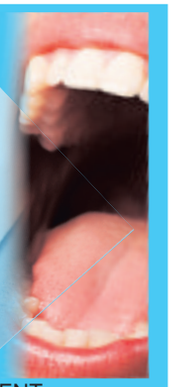

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Welcome to Sandwell

OVER 150 YEARS - AA WALTERS

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

A & A Walters was founded in 1850 by William Walters and was originally a wheelwrights and coffin makers. By 1900, William's two sons Arthur and Alec had given the business its name and it became an Undertakers. Older generations may still remember Sid and Ernie who were Arthur's sons.

The current Managing Director Mick Walters joined the business in 1962 and now works alongside his daughter Rachel and Son-in-Law Jeremy who represent the fifth generation of this proud family owned firm.

As a leading national award winning funeral director we work hard to ensure that whilst our standards are high, our prices are amongst the lowest in the West Midlands. In keeping with our traditions we have recently added a unique Edwardian-style hearse to compliment our otherwise modern fleet of vehicles.

The Old Manse | 85 Dudley Road | Tipton

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INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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'Allow our family to care for yours'

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OVER 75 YEARS - BOWKETTS

History of Bowketts

Bowketts of Oldbury was opened as a butchers shop on 8th March 1938 by Bill Bowketts Snr and his wife Muriel. Bill's brother Sam joined him not long after but eventually found that the business wouldn't stretch to two wages so he went on to join the Territorial Army - hence the original name Bowketts Bro's. Bill Bowkett Jnr was then born 6 weeks later on 19th April 1938. Bill Jnr took over the shop from his dad after doing his compulsory national service as camp butcher where he learnt how to cook.

Over the years the shop how gone from strength to strength surviving rationing and in later years entering a variety of National competitions winning most of them with their home made sausage! Having further success with homemade pies which they started producing in 1989.

Today there are 26 different varieties of Award winning sausage all still made on the premises along with the large variety of meat pies and pork pies made in the traditional way.

OVER 1 YEAR - FAMOUS BRITISH FISH & CHIPS

Famous British Fish and Chip Shop opened its doors to the public back in September 2012. The British recession was at its peek and inflation for spuds and chip shop supplies was at an all time high due to bad weather conditions Britain had faced. We've had a tough year, although we have now pulled through the worst, thanks to our loyal customers. Our business has gone from strength to strength, employing six part time staff, we make every effort to go that extra mile to satisfy our customers. Most of our ingredients are locallly produced from around Britain.

We are open for business Mon-Thurs 12 pm-8.30 pm, Fri 12 pm-9.00 pm and Sat 12 pm-8.30 pm and closed Sundays. We have a menu on line and you can find us on the justeat.co.uk and hungryhouse.co.uk websites where we would be happy to deliver your orders. To celebrate our success and our first anniversary, we are holding a one day special, half price sale on our chips on Monday 30th September where our friendly staff will be happy to serve you. Thank you from the Famous British Fish & Chips Management Team.

Down Memory Lane

This week we are looking at businesses both old and new, ranging from one year to over 150 years

OVER 50 YEARS - BILLINGHAM'S FLORIST

Why Did the Florist cross the road?

Billinghams Florist

Your local Interflora florist

462 High Street
West Bromwich
B70 9LD
0121 553 0972

www.billinghamsflorist.co.uk

After over 50 years in it's present location Billinghams Florist is re-planting itself to the other side of the road.

Opening at 462 High Street, West Bromwich on Monday 30th September 2013 the newly refurbished premises looks brighter and better.

The present family run business has been in operation for over 30 years and they hope customers will appreciate the fresh new look.

Telephone numbers stay the same, as will all the services currently provided including Interflora.

So why did the florist cross the road? Some say it's rosier on the other side! So call in and see for yourself

OVER 25 YEARS - NAR FENCING

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Competitive rates and discounts within store.

OVER 3 YEARS - JADE CRYSTAL

ADVERTISEMENT

Fortune smiles for fans of Oriental delicacies

A revamped menu means there is lots to tempt customers to the Jade Crystal Chinese buffet restaurant

THE Jade Crystal Chinese buffet restaurant in West Bromwich is offering a meal deal for children under 1.4 metres who can now eat for half price with a paying adult, with youngsters under three eating for free.

The restaurant in Unit 2, Dudley Street, serves up authentic Chinese dishes from starters, main courses and scrumptious puddings, with an ice cream machine for the young and old.

Owner Jenny Jiang, who took over the restaurant in Carters Green in 2010, has also changed the opening times to offer a better service to customers.

Now it is open:

Monday to Friday 12noon to 3pm

Saturday noon to 5pm

Evening Monday to Thursday 5.30pm to 10.30pm, Friday and Saturday 5.30pm to 11pm

Sunday and bank holidays, 12noon to 10pm

Jenny says she feels it is important to get the message out to the people of West Bromwich that good food is available in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and does not have to cost a fortune, with both families and businesses able to "indulge in the eat as much as you like buffet" with no time constraints or worries.

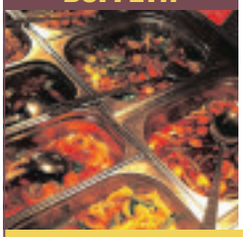
As well as the eat in menu there is also a takeaway option, where customers can purchase a box which can be filled to the brim to take home - as long as the lid will close.

The restaurant is close to the A41 Expressway, with great links to the M5 and M6 motorways, or alternatively you can catch the tram with the restaurant just a one-minute walk from the Guns Village tram stop.

Visit www.jade-crystal.co.uk for further information.

Jade Crystal
CHINESE BUFFET

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET!!



NEW PRICE LIST

LUNCH		
Mon-Fri	12 noon-3 pm	£6.99
Saturday	12 noon-5.00 pm	£7.99
EVENING		
Mon-Thur	5.30 pm-10.30 pm	£9.99
Fri & Sat	5.30 pm-11.00 pm	£9.99
Sunday Bank Holiday	12 noon-10 pm	£7.99

FREE & COFFEE After each main meal | Children 3 years & under EAT FREE! | Customers below 1.4m tall HALF PRICE! | Students get 10% DISCOUNT!

Unit 2, 41 Dudley Street, West Bromwich B70 9RL (next to 'Blockbusters')
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OVER 15 YEARS - CRUSTY COTTAGE

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info@crustycottage.co.uk
www.crustycottage.co.uk

Customers who regularly visit Crusty Cottage will know of its excellence, for those of you who don't, it's easily one of the best all round sandwich/food shops in the area.

Open since 1998 the friendly owner Bobby offers a great home delivery service for hot & cold meals along with catering for community centres and is also in the sheltered housing scheme. Meals are prepared fresh everyday and delivered for lunchtimes. All our drivers are CRB checked and offer a professional delivery service with a smile.

They are open 6 days a week; however they still provide a 7 day delivery service for meals on wheels. As if that's not enough, you also have the option of selecting how many days you require the service.

OVER 1 YEAR - WESLEY CENTRE

We are a friendly family growing multi-cultural church with the primary aim of sharing God's true love with our community, encouraging God's original design for basic family values, and where everyone within the community care for each other. Neighbours helping neighbours - those were the good old days!

We love families at MAET Ministries, and if you have children with you we want them to enjoy church too.

(We are often complimented on the unique atmosphere as everyone of all ages gather together in the ambience of our passionate celebration, energetic praise and heartfelt worship). Come with all the family and be bless. Come as you are. Enjoy a light snack or a cup of soup after each Sunday Service. You will always receive a warm welcome.
No one is made to feel a stranger.

Join us in our Praise, Worship and Thanksgiving Celebration on Saturday 26th October at 6.30pm. FREE admission.

SANDWELL

Did You Know?

INTO THE PAST

Memory Lane

LOCAL FACTS

Oakwood LODGE PARK

01597 811422

www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk

Norwegian log cabins situated at 1000ft above sea-level in the 'Heart of Wales'. Fantastic views with red kites soaring overhead. Stunning location and excellent touring centre. Dogs welcome. Small site. All year round availability. Superb holiday accommodation.

PHONE FOR BROCHURE

ADVERTISMENT

THE FIRST THING GUESTS SAY AS THEY ENTER THEIR LODGE IS "WOW" AS THEY TAKE IN THE VIEWS ACROSS THE VALLEY.

Each Lodge faces south making the most of the sun and light that streams in and with the first of the Elan Valley lakes within view "wow" is very appropriate. During the day the small birds gather to pinch bread crumbs from the Lodge decks and in the late afternoon Red Kites soar above the park and as dusk falls Owls hoot in the woods. Oakwood is a nature lover's paradise and never ceases to delight.

The Lodges are Norwegian and constructed from solid log. Cool in summer and warm and cosy in winter they have everything one would need for a few days rest and recuperation. Available on a self catering basis, the lodges are fully equipped and with rates that include all gas and electricity. The Premium Lodges even have private Hot Tubs to sooth away the rigours of the day.

For the more energetic both the Park itself and the surrounding area has some delightful walks, from something gentle to the most challenging and since dogs are welcome here at Oakwood why not bring your "best friend".

A mile down the road is the historic market town of Rhayader with its many pubs and eateries and a good selection of shops. There is plenty to do, with the Visitor Centre, Local Museum, Glass making and sports centre to name but a few.

Oakwood is open all year round, obviously very busy in the summer and over the Christmas and New year periods, but with more and more people taking advantage of the off

peak rates the inter season of October / November and January /February are proving popular with those that opt for a "sneaky" few days away.

With a three night minimum and the option of starting your break on any day of the week convenient to you, a stay at Oakwood has to be high on anyone's "things to do list".

Viva Glasvegas at The Slade Rooms

GLASWEGIAN rockers Glasvegas, who made a big noise in 2008 with hit single Daddy's Gone, are returning to Wolverhampton on Friday, October 4, for a gig at The Slade Rooms.

Led by singer and guitarist James Allan, the band are known for his emotional songs rooted in the harsh realities of life.

Recorded in their home city, third studio album Later... When The TV Turns To Static, was released earlier this month.

It is guitar-driven and passionately performed, particularly the tracks Choices and I'd Rather Be Dead (Than Be With You). The nearest to anthems are If and album closer Finished Sympathy.

Tickets cost £15 plus fees, call 0870 320 7000 or see www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

Meanwhile, 1980s favourites The Primitives are at The Slade Rooms tonight (Thursday) and legendary 74-year-old drummer Ginger Baker (ex-Cream, PIL) brings his Jazz Confusion to the Wulfrun tomorrow (Friday).

Caro mum-to-be postpones tour

DUTCH jazz-pop singer Caro Emerald, 32, who had a sold-out concert at the Symphony Hall last week, has announced her spring tour including Birmingham NIA date in March is postponed to October 11, after revealing she is pregnant. Purchased tickets will be valid for the new date.

Champagne comedy promises to be a Noel Coward corker

A REVIVAL of Noel Coward's Champagne-popping comedy Fallen Angels, teaming-up stage and screen actresses Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as best friends Julia and Jane, is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Apart from doing wonders for the sales of Phildelphia cheese, Sara Crowe is probably best known as the first bride in Four Weddings And A Funeral. She has gone on to success in West End productions, specialising in Noel Coward plays.

Lover

Jenny Seagrove is a familiar face as barrister Jo Mills in Judge John Deed but is also a West End regular. She had a starring role in the recent hit revival of Coward's Volcano.

Noel Coward's 1925 farce Fallen Angels tells of a pair of bored wives who pop open the Champagne when a mutual former lover decides to call but too much liquid courage leads to unexpected results.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's stunning arena production of rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar, featuring his TV viewer-selected Jesus, Ben Forster, alongside Tim Minchin – the real star as Judas – and Melanie C as Mary Magdalene plus a cameo by Chris Moyles as King Herod, returns a year on from its debut in Birmingham. The Thursday, October 3, spectacular at the NIA will be its final encore.

It's liquid courage for Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as Julia and Jane in Fallen Angels

As The Lion King finally roars off, Birmingham Hippodrome welcomes back its home company when Birmingham Royal Ballet perform a triple bill. Tombeaux, E=mc2 and Still Life At The Penguin Cafe will be staged from October 3 to 5, then Sleeping Beauty arrives.

Perfect nine for South's song legacy

NINE-PIECE band The South, featuring two former singers from The Beautiful South, are keeping alive the repertoire from the 20-year career of one of the UK's favourite bands of the 1990s.

After The Beautiful South split in 2007 and main frontman Paul Heaton went solo, fellow founder Dave Hemmingway and Alison Wheeler, who had replaced Jacqui Abbott in 2003, decided to carry on with the help of several stalwarts from the touring band.

Debut

They will be performing songs from their debut album Sweet Refrains plus such Beautiful South favourites as Rotterdam, Don't Marry Her, You Keep It All In, Perfect Ten and many others at Bilston's Robin 2 venue at Mount Pleasant on Tuesday, October 1.

Call the box office on 01902 401211.

Singers Alison Wheeler and Dave Hemmingway with members of The South, continuing the music of The Beautiful South and coming to Bilston's Robin 2

GAME REVIEWS

Saints and the sinners

Grand Theft Auto V (18, Rockstar)

PEOPLE queued at midnight to get this game and, in a grim case of life imitating Grand Theft Auto, some were even mugged for their copy.

GTA upsets moral guardians, although they probably don't get its dark humour. The series is violent, sweary, morally dubious. So is part five and that will please fans.

Does GTAV live up to the hype accorded a 170 million dollar blockbuster? Oh yes. Rockstar have put the money on screen, creating the massive open-world arena of Los Santos, an alternative Los Angeles. The visuals are stunning and the freedom to explore the city, though partly an illusion, is liberating.

Gamers can choose from a cast of crooks as they play a part in an action-packed crime drama that doesn't let up from the first flashback bank heist.

Saints Row IV (18, Volition)

A CRAZY alternative to Grand Theft Auto. The graphics are not perfect but SRIV is a fun spoof of GTA and its clones.

Street gang The Saints have made it to the White House after saving the US from nuclear apocalypse – in an action-packed prologue – and then face an alien invasion. As one of the characters says: "The Saints don't do subtle".

Reviewed on X360 **LB**

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 28.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jack Donnelly

Atlantis
BBC1, 8.25pm
The Beeb's fantasy adventure replacement for Merlin focuses on a young lad called Jason (played by Misfits and House of Anubis star Jack Donnelly) who, while searching for his missing father, is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land. A place where mythical creatures, soothsaying oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace. Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Mark Addy and Sarah Parish also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** I Love My Country.

6.15 Pointless Celebrities. With Colin Baker, Pam Ferris, Martin Jarvis and Matthew Kelly.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the second of this weekend's live shows, as the remainder of the couples take to the floor.

8.25 Atlantis. New series. Fledgling hero Jason goes in search of his father, only to be washed up on the shores of a mysterious land. Fantasy drama, starring Jack Donnelly and Mark Addy.

9.15 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Matt Johnson presents as the balls are set rolling.

9.25 Casualty. Iain helps a teenager who was caught up in a fatal car crash as he struggles to face up to the truth, while Fletch decides to shoulder the blame for Tess's mistake.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea and Swansea City v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of the latest games in the Football League.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30 Film:** From This Day Forward. (1946) **8.00 Film:** A Damsel in Distress. (1937) **9.40** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.10** The Life of Birds. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** University Challenge. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** The Hairy Bakers. **1.00** Live MotoGP. **2.05** EastEnders. **4.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.15** Flog It! (R)

6.00 The Wonder of Dogs. (R)

7.00 Dad's Army. The men head off for a weekend at a training camp. (R)

7.30 Count Arthur Strong. The former variety star is offered a bit-part in a radio play. (R)

8.00 The 70s. Historian Dominic Sandbrook examines the decade, touching on the housing boom, the arrival of thousands of Ugandan refugees and the 1972 miners' strike. (R)

9.00 Mock the Week. With Rob Beckett, Romesh Ranganathan and Josh Widdicombe. (R)

9.30 The Sarah Millican Slightly Longer Television Programme. Extended edition, with Quentin Willson, Bradley Walsh and Richard Osman.

10.10 Dara O Briain – Craic Dealer. The comedian in performance at Edinburgh Playhouse.

11.10 Film: Wonder Boys. (2000) A washed-up professor is given the inspiration to finish his latest novel by a student who shows him a new perspective on life. Drama, starring Michael Douglas.

12.55 Film: Distant Voices, Still Lives. (1990) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.20** Catchphrase. (R) **2.05** Doc Martin. (R) **3.05** The X Factor. (R) **4.05 Film:** Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles. (2001) **5.55** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.05 ITV News; Weather.

6.20 You've Been Framed and Famous! Harry Hill narrates a selection of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers, featuring people resembling Tom Cruise, Britney Spears and Prince Harry. (R)

7.20 Stepping Out. The final, featuring a performance by Diversity. Last in the series.

8.20 The X Factor. The singers who impressed at the double auditions now face a tougher challenge as they gather at Wembley Arena for the first part of boot camp.

9.50 Through the Keyhole. Larry Lamb and Emma Bunton join Dave Berry on the panel.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: 10,000 BC. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.4** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 British F3. **6.40** The Grid. **7.05** The Great North Swim. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Jilly Pollock hosts the fifth and final party in Liverpool. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Comic-book drama co-created by Joss Whedon, in which Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) assembles a group of highly skilled operatives to investigate strange new cases. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. A Marine who was seriously injured in Afghanistan begins a project to build a specially adapted home with a cutting-edge design, on a budget of £250,000. (R)

9.00 Film: The Taking of Pelham 123. (2009) Criminals hijack a crowded New York subway train and threaten to kill the passengers unless they are paid $10million. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington and John Travolta.

11.10 Film: Hitman. (2007) Action thriller, starring Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott and Olga Kurylenko.

1.00 Film: The Informers. (2008) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Blancpain Endurance Series.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.50** Slugterra. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Animal Maternity. (R) **12.15** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.15 Film:** Columbo: Caution – Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10 Film:** The Kentuckian. (1955) Western, starring Burt Lancaster. **5.15 Film:** The Magnificent Seven. (1960) Western, with Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Charles Bronson.

7.45 Film: The Wonderful Country. (1959) A tough lone gunman returns from exile in Mexico to take on risky work with the Texas Rangers patrolling the border. Western, with Robert Mitchum, Julie London and Pedro Armendariz.

9.40 5 News Weekend.

9.45 Film: Point Break. (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze.

12.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.55** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Michaela Strachan tries to survive on a desert island. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. A visit to a radio station ends badly. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. Disaster strikes at Silver Hatch when Big Chris falls asleep on the job. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. A piglet grows tired of her brother. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. Clara thinks she has laid an egg. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. Hellie makes an emergency landing. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. Francis's grandma comes to visit. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Robin Hood **7.45** Doctor Who **8.30** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **9.00 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) **11.15** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Africa **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Africa **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.50** What's Going On? The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye **11.50** Charles Bradley: Soul of America

ITV2
3.00 Peter Andre: My Life **4.00** Kings of Leon: The Hot Desk **4.15** You've Been Framed! **5.45 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.50 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.50** The Xtra Factor **10.50** Celebrity Juice **11.40** The Magaluf Weekender

ITV3
2.05 Film: The Count of Monte Cristo (2002) **4.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Foyle's War **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Wire in the Blood

ITV4
1.25 Film: Spartacus (1960) **5.10** British Superbike Championship Highlights **6.10 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **8.00** Hornblower **10.20 Film:** Schindler's List (1993)

E4
4.05 Rules of Engagement **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00 Film:** Marley and Me (2008) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** Rude Tube: Total Fails

Film4
2.50 Von Ryan's Express (1965) **5.15** Meet Dave (2008) **7.05** My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) **9.00** Sleeping with the Enemy (1991) Thriller, starring Julia Roberts. **10.55** Alien (1979)

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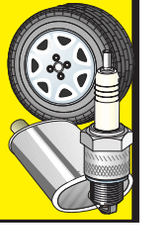
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SUNDAY'S TV 29.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Christopher Reeve

Superman
Channel 5, 6.20pm
Richard Donner's 1978 blockbuster was the first A-list superhero epic in history, and is as entertaining today as when it was released. The movie examines Kal-El's origins; how he was rocketed from his dying home world of Krypton, crash-landed on Earth, raised as a normal teenager, and then went to the city of Metropolis to fight for truth, justice and the American way. The fact it can warm the coldest heart, and leave kids perched on the edge of their seat is testament to how good this 35-year-old classic still is. Christopher Reeve stars.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **3.30** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival.
6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison visit the Shropshire town of Ludlow during its annual food and drink festival, and Tom Heap looks at the threat posed by non-native plants and animals.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Items at the Royal Agricultural University near Cirencester include a tea caddy used for a budgie's ashes and possibly the last signatures made by Edward VIII before his abdication. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 By Any Means. A girl's body is found in the boot of a car belonging to a well-respected judge, and Helen is convinced the accused has been framed by an ex-policeman with a personal vendetta.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches.
11.25 Film: New Town Killers. (2008) Thriller, starring Dougray Scott.
1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Borderline. (1950) **7.30** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **11.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. **2.15** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs.
6.00 Great British Railway Journeys. The role Weymouth played in the D-Day landings. (R)
6.30 The Great British Bake Off. The remaining contestants face three tasks involving sweet dough. (R)
7.30 The Ginge, the Geordie and the Geek. New series. Comedy sketch show, starring Graeme Rooney, Paul Charlton and Kevin O'Loughlin.
8.00 The Crane Gang. High winds lead to jobs being cancelled across the country.
9.00 The Story of the Jews. The Holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel. Last in the series.
10.00 The Wrong Mans. Comedy thriller, starring James Corden and Mathew Baynton. (R)
10.30 QI XL. Extended edition, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and David Mitchell.
11.15 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R)
11.45 Film: Sus. (2010) Drama, starring Clint Dyer and Ralph Brown.
1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Big Time Rush. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.25 Film:** Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.05** You've Been Framed! (R) **3.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.35** Downton Abbey. (R)
6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 Surprise Surprise. A father and daughter are reunited.
7.30 The X Factor. The remaining acts have a final chance to impress Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh before the line-up of the judges' houses round is revealed.
9.00 Downton Abbey. Mary takes an interest in the running of the estate, but meets firm resistance from her father. Lady Rose MacClare finds herself in a predicament at a tea dance in York.
10.05 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Film: Larry Crowne. (2011) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts.
12.10 Premiership Rugby Union. **1.00** The Store. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.55** Motorsport UK. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** American Football: Hard Knocks. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50 Film:** The Net. (1995) **4.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.05** Channel 4 News. **5.25** The Political Slot. **5.30** American Football Live. Minnesota Vikings v Pittsburgh Steelers (Kick-off 6.00pm).
8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. Having moved his cabin to the beach, Kevin doubles the floor space with a new sun lounge, puts up a hammock and dives in London's oldest dock in search of junk to recycle.
9.00 Big Fat Quiz of the 90s. Jonathan Ross, Jo Brand, Sue Perkins, Lee Mack, Bob Mortimer and Richard Ayoade demonstrate how much they remember about the 1990s. Jimmy Carr asks the questions.
10.35 Gogglebox. Some of Britain's most opinionated viewers comment on shows from the past seven days, including The X Factor and The Great British Bake Off. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.20 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Alan celebrates the show's 100th episode, with chat and music by Justin Timberlake and Rihanna, and boxer David Haye's thoughts about his upcoming bout with Tyson Fury. (R)
12.35 Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **1.15** American Football Live. **4.45** British F3. (R) **5.10** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Golf. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Slugterra. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** James Bond: The True Story. (R) **1.20 Film:** Vertical Limit. (2000) **3.40 Film:** Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Director's Cut. (1977)
6.20 Film: Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, with Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Gone in 60 Seconds. (2000) A veteran car thief is forced to pull off an extremely complex heist to save his brother from the gangster holding him hostage. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Angelina Jolie.
11.25 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.
1.15 SuperCasino. **3.55** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.10** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.40 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Staying in with Greg & Russell **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Miss Marple **7.50** The Rabbits of Skomer **8.00** Fabric of Britain **9.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood **10.30** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **11.35** Proms on Four: John Wilson's Hollywood Rhapsody
ITV2
2.10 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **4.40** The X Factor **6.10** The Xtra Factor **7.10 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** Fast & Furious (2009)
ITV3
3.45 Film: The Railway Children (1970) **6.00** Murder, She Wrote **7.00** Lewis **9.00 Film:** The Life of David Gale (2003) **11.35** Bomb Girls
ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. The ninth round of the season from Silverstone. **6.00** Goodwood Revival 2013 **7.00** Minder **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Firefox (1982) **11.45 Film:** Memphis Belle (1990)
E4
4.50 How I Met Your Mother **6.15** Rules of Engagement **6.45** The Big Bang Theory **8.10 Film:** The Spy Next Door (2010) **10.00** New Rude Tube **11.00** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
2.55 The Straight Story (1999) **5.10** Ice Age (2002) **6.55** Employee of the Month (2006) **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) **11.05** Black Book (2006)

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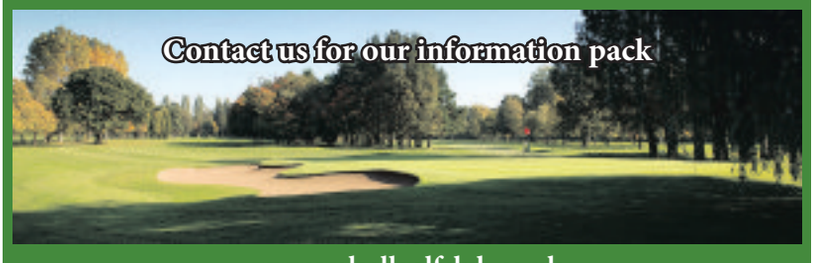
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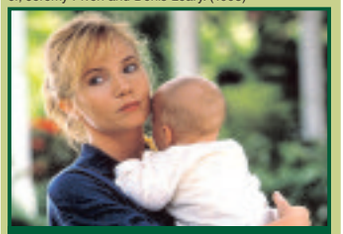
What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Hostel, Channel 5, 11pm
Three backpackers travelling across Europe hear of a Slovakian inn where their every hedonistic desire will be met. However, they discover they have been lured into the clutches of wealthy depraved businessmen who pay for the chance to torture people to death. Horror, starring Jay Hernandez and Eythor Gudjonsson. (2005)

TUESDAY
Siege of the Saxons, Channel 4, 1.30pm
King Arthur is betrayed and killed by one of his knights, who has formed an alliance with an invading Saxon horde and intends to seize the throne himself. However, the dead monarch's daughter is rescued by an outlaw, who seeks the aid of Merlin in ensuring the crown passes to her instead of the villainous usurper. Medieval adventure, starring Ronald Lewis. (1963)

WEDNESDAY
Judgment Night, BBC1, 11.45pm
Four suburbanites are stranded in Chicago's tough West Side while on their way to a boxing match. They experience a chilling night of terror when they see a gangland murder and must flee for their lives from the killer, who is determined to leave no witnesses. Thriller, starring Emilio Estevez, Stephen Dorff, Cuba Gooding Jr, Jeremy Piven and Denis Leary. (1993)


The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, Friday BBC1, 11.35pm

THURSDAY
Magicians, ITV, 10.35pm
A conjuring double act comes to an end after an unfortunate accident with a guillotine. Set on separate careers, the pair become bitter rivals bent on sabotaging each other's performance at any opportunity - until the prospect of winning a prestigious international contest offers the incentive to bury the hatchet and join forces once again. Comedy, with David Mitchell. (2007)

FRIDAY
Mickey Blue Eyes, ITV, 10.35pm
A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's daughter, who wants to escape her family's criminal connections. However, try as he may, he realises there is virtually no way to avoid being drawn into its members' illegal activities. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Burt Young. (1999)

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, BBC1, 11.35pm
A doctor is caught molesting a patient and commits suicide, after which his wife has a miscarriage. She blames his victim for her losses and plans to get revenge, infiltrating the unsuspecting woman's house as a nanny and playing twisted mind games to destroy her life. Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay. (1992)

Pick of the Week

Legend of the lost city is brought back to life

There are some genres that just fit into Saturday evening's TV schedules perfectly, and being without them seems weird.

Talent shows are a given these days, as are glossy light entertainment programmes. And you certainly can't miss out on a fantasy adventure.

Doctor Who is the granddaddy of them all, but will be off our screens until the 50th anniversary edition, set to be broadcast on November 23rd.

In recent years, the likes of Robin Hood and Merlin have fulfilled the requirement whenever the Time Lord has been off air, but now there's a new show on the block.

It feels as if the Beeb has been showing the trailer for Atlantis every five minutes lately; they've obviously pushed the boat out when it comes to the budget and so are desperate for it to gain a decent audience.

However, what the corporation hasn't done is tell us much about the plot.

What we do know is that it focuses on a young lad called Jason who, while searching for his missing father, is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land, a place where mythical creatures, soothsaying oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace.

Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Heading the cast is Jack Donnelly, and the series is set to make him a star; he will probably already look familiar to fans of Misfits and House of Anubis thanks to his recurring roles on them.

But here he plays Jason, whose life is about to undergo a dramatic change. He's always been an outsider, but finally finds friendship in Atlantis with Pythagoras and Hercules.

But don't panic, although the name of the Greek mathematician will send shivers down the spine of those who tried to deal with his theories about triangles during school lessons, here he's a youngster with a big heart who's about to have a lot of adventures.

He's played by Robert Emms, who most recently popped up in Kick-Ass 2.

Also involved in the three-way bromance is Hercules – but he isn't quite as you've seen him before.

Back in the 1990s, Kevin Sorbo played the legendary hero as a muscle-bound hunk. Here he's played by The Full Monty star Mark Addy, and it's clear that the character is no longer in the peak of his prime.

"I am very excited to be invited along on this epic adventure," says the York-born star. "The scripts bring to life ancient myths with such a vibrancy and sense of humour; I knew I wanted to be a part of it."

Also set to feature are Sarah Parish and Juliet Stevenson; the BBC's controller of drama commissioning, Ben Stephenson, is certainly impressed by the calibre of those involved.

He says: "The fantastic cast announced for Atlantis is testament to the ambition and scale of Howard Overman's scripts. Some of the UK's best-loved actors are joining our newest talent to take the BBC1 audience to a rich and wonderful world where any adventure is possible."

Jack Donnelly stars in Atlantis, Saturday, BBC1, 8.25pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Gadget Man
Channel 4, 8.30pm
For us technophobes, Richard Ayoade is nothing short of a godsend. Trying not to think about the fact that this comedy genius will shortly no longer be on our screens in The IT crowd (sob, sniff), the way he talks us through the idiots' guide to the newest of technology and gadgets is something of a lifesaver. This week, Richard's looking at DIY, something of which he's definitely not a fan. He's testing out the latest safety tools, building machinery and lawnmowers, all of which promise to take the strain and pain out of home decorating. Richard also sets himself a personal challenge; to make over a room in his house using robots and gadgets, thus not having to lift a finger himself.

Broadmoor: The Inside Story
Channel 5, 9pm
Thinking about the type of people it has caged is enough to make you shudder, but Broadmoor is approaching a significant anniversary, having been home to Britain's most notorious killers for 150 years. This two-part documentary explores the history of the world's most famous and feared hospital; from the Victorian era to the present day. This first instalment takes a look at Broadmoor as it is today. Surrounded by barbed wire and high-level security, the facility is home to some of country's most deranged and dangerous minds. In 1863, Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum opened, as the law declared it immoral to blame the insane for crimes and send them to the gallows…

TUESDAY
The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert
BBC1, 10.35pm
This year marked the 20th anniversary of the murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence, but the repercussions of the shocking crime are still being felt. On Sunday, September 29, his life and legacy are being celebrated with a special concert at the O2 Arena – and some of the biggest names in British music are taking part. It's an impressively eclectic line-up, featuring Ellie Goulding, Rita Ora, Beverley Knight, Emeli Sande, Rizzle Kicks, Labrinth, Plan B, Jessie J, Tinie Tempah, Rudimental, Soul II Soul and Ed Sheeran. There's even a bit of jazz for the grown-ups, courtesy of Jamie Cullum. If you couldn't make it to the concert, the BBC are bringing us some of the highlights.

WEDNESDAY
Grand Designs
Channel 4, 9pm
Flying instructor Colin Mackinnon and his partner, hovercraft instructor and trapeze artist Marta Briongos, love their airfield so much, they have decided to live there too. Their plan is to build an extraordinary metal sculptural home next to the runway, designed by one of Scotland's most acclaimed architects. It's inspired by aircraft hangars, but bespoke metal homes are far from the norm in Scotland, and finding people to do the work is anything but easy. The violent rain, snow, 100-mile-an-hour winds and the worst storms for a century don't help matters, so little wonder the year-long project starts dragging – into its third year. Colin and Marta do everything possible to see their unique project through to the end. But will Kevin like the result?

The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.35

Science Britannica
BBC2, 9pm
It's the last in the present series of Science Britannica, but we shouldn't get too downhearted – no doubt a new Professor Brian Cox show will be along in a week or two. The reason he's become so ubiquitous is because he's very good at explaining difficult ideas in a way that makes it easy for non-experts to comprehend, without making us feel like we're being talked down to. However, this week he's tackling an issue that most of us should understand – happy accidents. It seems that some of Britain's most impressive breakthroughs were made when the scientists were actually trying to discover something else.

THURSDAY
Mayhem & Mishaps: Britain Caught on Camera
BBC1, 9pm
Forget all those complaints about Health and Safety getting out of control – this documentary could just convince you that you need to get an expert in to risk assess your house. Mark 'Chappers' Chapman takes a break from Match of the Day 2 to look at some of the calamities that could befall us as we go about our everyday lives. Admittedly, some of them look quite funny when they are happening to someone else, as we're treated to a whole host of CCTV and home video clips of people falling over. But others are no clearly laughing matter, as Chapman examines the consequences of DIY accidents, barbecue fires and exploding white goods.

FRIDAY
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Channel 4, 8pm
It's been a long time since Marvel created a hit, live action TV show. However, when Avengers Assemble struck box office gold last year, the time was finally right to exploit one of Marvel's most enduring organisations, S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention Enforcement and Logistics Division). If you missed last week's pilot, Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) is back from the dead. He forms a specialised team of individuals to brave the post-Battle of New York world. They include combat and espionage specialist Grant Ward (Brett Dalton), expert pilot and martial artist Melinda May (Ming-Na Wen), and free-spirited computer hacker Skye (Chloe Bennet). This week, Coulson and the agents travel to Peru to investigate an object of unknown origin, codenamed 0-8-4.

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Brain Gym

No.240

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

10	8	11	22	■	25 C	8 O	11	1	24	26	14	12
18	■	5	■	■	14	■	■	8	■	14	■	5
24	■	10	18	5	3	14	25	22	■	16	■	3
11	5	10	■	■	■	20	■	■	10	7	7	10
7	■	12	■	2	4	24	15	■	■	23	■	5
■	11	7	25	13	■	14	■	2	25	8	12	21
■	■	■	■	5	■	10	■	24	■	■	■	■
10	5	19	8	15	■	12	■	10	24	17	17	■
7	■	5	■	■	18	14	26	2	■	14	■	2
2	25	14	18	■	■	11	■	■	■	25	14	15
7	■	23	■	10	18	7	15	7	6	15	■	18
15	■	12	■	14	■	■	4	■	■	8	■	14
14	10	7	18	15	24	18	7	■	25	18	8	9

1	14	8 O	21
2	15	9	22
3	16	10	23
4	17	11	24
5	18	12	25 C
6	19	13	26
7	20		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 S	2 D	3 B	4 K	5 G	6 P	7 N	8 O	9 A	10 M	11 V	12 Q	13 F
14 L	15 T	16 E	17 Y	18 I	19 U	20 C	21 Z	22 J	23 X	24 R	25 H	26 W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. A line used in malaria treatment (6)
8. Make a choice in this election (6)
10. In my view, a vegetable with very good stuffing (7)
11. A step in the making of dough (5)
12. Give out when it's time to come back (4)
13. An unlicensed receiver (5)
17. Leaves with all debts settled (5)
18. Fairy required, some experience necessary (4)
22. If all plants were this, there would be no great variety (5)
23. Reputation for enjoying poor health? (3-4)
24. He knew where to draw the line (6)
25. High jinks with a saucy flavour? (6)

Down

1. Role man has created as a social worker (7)
2. Tract of the brave New World (7)
3. Odd trio holds a proportion (5)
4. A particular deference (7)
5. Maybe the present state of a nervous person (5)
6. To come up before her is not the same (5)
9. Centaur in doubtful form (9)
14. Ruffian out to provide popular entertainment (3,4)
15. Slackened and became loose in a rush (7)
16. Grant permission to break silence (7)
19. Did little after I'd made the running (5)
20. Give birth to a plot (5)
21. Amphibious cart? (5)

1	■	2	■	3	■	■	■	4	■	5	■	6
7						■	8					
	■		■		■	9	■		■		■	
10							■	11				
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
12				■	13					■	■	■
	■		■	14	■		■		■	15	■	16
■	■	■	17					■	18			
19	■	20	■		■		■	21	■		■	
22					■	23						
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
24						■	25					
	■		■		■	■	■		■		■	

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Skilled (6)
8. Acme (6)
10. Felling (7)
11. Clear (5)
12. Rational (4)
13. Sham (5)
17. Avidity (5)
18. Couple (4)
22. Object (5)
23. Decisive (7)
24. Outcome (6)
25. Venerate (6)

Down

1. Opposite (7)
2. Nominate (7)
3. Exhaust (5)
4. Fervent (7)
5. Nip (5)
6. Obscurity (5)
9. Guiltlessness (9)
14. Squirm (7)
15. Sailor (7)
16. Small truck (7)
19. Narrative (5)
20. Foremost (5)
21. Odd (5)

Sudoku

7	6							1
		5		7		3	6	
	8		6				2	
4	1				5			
5			4		6			9
			9				1	4
	7			6	2		5	
6		8		4		1		2
			7				9	6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	5	7	1	2	4	9	8
4	7	9	5	6	8	1	2	3
1	8	2	3	4	9	6	7	5
2	1	3	8	9	4	7	5	6
8	6	4	2	5	7	9	3	1
9	5	7	6	3	1	2	8	4
5	2	1	9	8	6	3	4	7
7	4	8	1	2	3	5	6	9
3	9	6	4	7	5	8	1	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Wince; 4 Eyewash; 8 Aground; 9 Ether; 10 Drew; 11 Organist; 13 Arum; 14 Loft; 16 Uprooted; 17 Ache; 20 Nadir; 21 Spiders; 22 Wreaths; 23 Eaten. Down: 1 What do you know; 2 Nurse; 3 Etui; 4 Endure; 5 Elevator; 6 Atheist; 7 Horatio Nelson; 12 Autocrat; 13 Abridge; 15 Census; 18 Chest; 19 Hive. QUICK - Across: 1 Egret; 4 Beneath; 8 Banquet; 9 Repel; 10 Lees; 11 Pleasure; 13 Reel; 14 Lone; 16 Habitual; 17 Sore; 20 Erupt; 21 Coronet; 22 Toddler; 23 Error. Down: 1 Embellishment; 2 Range; 3 Tour; 4 Battle; 5 Narrator; 6 Ampoule; 7 Helter-skelter; 12 Teetotal; 13 Rebound; 15 Lancer; 18 Owner; 19 Urge.

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5 DAY TOURS Mon 7 Oct

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Folkestone & Ostend	NOW £159.95
Blackpool Supersaver	£159.95
Holy Island, Bamburgh & Seahouses	£199.95
Southport, Keswick & Lakes	£149.95
Babbacombe & Sidmouth	£159.95
Eastbourne Supersaver	£119.95
Torbay Supersaver	£129.95
Llandudno Supersaver	£149.95
Isle of Wight Supersaver	£139.95
Ilfracombe & Lynmouth	£169.95

5 DAY TOURS Mon 14 Oct

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Folkestone & Ostend	NOW £159.95
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Weston, Bath & Cheddar Gorge	£169.95
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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Triumphant homecoming after season of festivals

Swim Deep, Birmingham Town Hall

SWIM Deep returned to Birmingham for a triumphant homecoming concert at the Town Hall after a summer of festivals.

They are on the cusp of nationwide success with their debut album Where The Heaven Are We.

The Digbeth groovers ensured a prestigious venue, once associated with Dickens, Elgar and the Chamberlains, was awash with moshing teens, floppy fringes a-swaying to the sushine sound of a second city outfit who seem reluctant to end their summer of love.

First up came two supports worth looking out for. Liverpool's Circa Waves are a sonically-exciting quartet, like teenaged Arctic Monkeys with a Scouse flavour. Grungey London band Wolf Alice are getting a lot of attention and have a rising star in singer Ellie Rowsell. Their explosive rocker Fluffy certainly got the mosh-pit fuse lit.

Swim Deep opened with Francisco, paving the way for a love-in between band and their young fans with enthusiastic responses for The Sea and a ramshackle cover of Cyndi Lauper's Girls Just Want To Have Fun.

Swim Deep's singer Austin Williams in action

Older heads may have noted similarities to the 'Madchester sound' of 20-plus years ago (such as The Stone Roses, The Mock Turtles, The Farm) but Swim Deep give a particular Brummie slacker slant to some persuasively melodic grooves.

They were joined on stage by the 24-piece Choir With No Name for epic versions of Stray and She Changes The Weather. The encores threatened to turn into an on-stage party before a rousing finish with King City.

Leon Burakowski

Waiter, take your hand off my leg!

Fawlty Towers: The Dinner Show

AS I tucked into my cheesecake I could feel a hand on my knee under the restaurant table – don't worry it was only the Spanish waiter looking for a 'hamster' – or was it a rat?

Earlier I had watched plates being snatched away and diners abused – this is eating out Fawlty Towers style. And far from being insulted the diners loved it.

The characters from Laughlines Entertainment brought the popular TV comedy from the 1970s back to life in a two-hour interactive performance as we tucked into our three-course meal at the Mercure Wolverhampton Goldthorn Hotel.

The performances, in collaboration with the city's Grand Theatre, were for one day only – an afternoon show and evening performance which was a sellout.

David Sigston was Basil and although looking a bit young was very convincing. Jacky Naylor as Sybil had the voice off to a tee and Paul Nolan as Manuel had the room in stitches.

Sue Attwater

No joke, banter stops Bailey in his tracks

Bill Bailey, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AVUNCULAR comedian Bill Bailey had to restart his gig at the Symphony Hall on Sunday having been reduced to perplexed giggles and mock indignation by bizarre banter from the Birmingham audience.

Confusion arose when he spoke to one person only to get an answer from another part of the hall, leading Bailey to accuse the audience of a conspiracy to mess with an old hippy's head.

The Black Books, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and QI regular – who admits to having given up Buzzcocks after realising dignity doesn't go with humming the intro to Britney Spears' Toxic to an indie band airhead – was on fine surreal form as he brought his Qualmpeddlar tour and its small forest of psychedelic trees to the city venue.

He began by savaging leading politicians – memorably describing Ed Miliband as looking like a man who has 'caught a bouquet at a funeral' – and asking what will follow the bedroom tax if the public are to pay for under-using things... a tax on large spoons, turmeric maybe? He also railed against the cult of celebrity and its mission to 'increlitinise' us. Very funny and sometimes venomous but without a single expletive. The stand-up stints were softened by spot-on musical parodies.

The final story, about how he rescued a living owl from the menu at a restaurant in China, was witty, poignant and proof that truth really is stranger, and funnier, than fiction.

Bill Bailey is back at the Symphony Hallon October 2.

LB

Monty magic is lost in the US version of dole queue musical

The Full Monty, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

WHEN West Bromwich Operatic Society last presented this show six years ago it was a real occasion and Mike Capri's sizzling production was full of atmosphere and excitement.

Time has moved on, and the short-comings of the show begin to appear.

The musical version of Simon Beaufoy's original film about unemployed steelworkers deciding to put on a strip show which goes further than the Chippendales is set in Buffalo, New York State, rather than Sheffield.

Some of the humour doesn't cross the Atlantic very easily, and the strong language may not appeal to everyone. Dave Yazbeck's music and lyrics replace the film's musical numbers. These have their charm, but lack the electricity of You Sexy Thing and You Can Leave Your Hat On.

A talented cast gives some fine performances. Lyndon Flavel plays Jerry and Callum McArthur plays Dave, struggling to overcome his low self-esteem. Fidel Lloyd makes a great character of Horse and his audition scene is hilarious.

The Full Monty runs until Saturday.

Jerald Smith

Top comics perform in The Public's final weeks

COMEDIANS including Russell Kane and Gina Yashere will be among the top attractions in the closing weeks of shows and events at The Public.

The West Bromwich arts centre will close on November 30 after Sandwell Council pulled its funding, saying it could not afford to spend £30,000 a week on running it.

Highlights

Now bosses are encouraging people to make the most of the programme of entertainment, before the iconic pink and black structure closes its doors.

Highlights over the coming weeks include Russell Kane who performs his new show Smallness on October 5, while Gina Yashere will take to the stage on October 19.

Meanwhile, the University of Wolverhampton's Faculty of Arts MA Degree Show will be on display from October 13 to 20. Then from November 11 to 16, The Public will be celebrating its history with a special Celebration Week.

Throughout the week visitors can enjoy live music, song and dance, culminating in a free gig on November 16 with West Bromwich covers band, The Busby Babes.

Linda Saunders, managing director of the New Street centre, said: "I would urge everybody to come along and see our autumn programme.

"We also have Celebration Week which is an opportunity for everybody who has been involved in The Public over the last four years to come along and enjoy what other people have done.

"All week there will be little exhibitions and things like open mic nights and Sandwell Music and Arts Service are doing a couple of concerts."

Sandwell Council approved proposals to withdraw funding despite protests and a petition of more than 5,000 signatures to keep it open.

Comedian Russell Kane

Meanwhile, the council is in talks with Sandwell College to transform The Public into a sixth form college for 500 A-level students.

The council has spent around £1.6m funding the £72m arts venue and says it cannot afford to do so any longer.

Building work on The Public, designed by architect Will Alsop, started in 1995 and after a number of delays the centre opened in 2008.

Cadbury family back ballet talent

A NEW dance fellowship to support some of the best emerging classical ballet talent is being launched by Birmingham Royal Ballet.

The Cadbury Dance Fellowship is designed to help talented dancers make the transition between vocational ballet school and professional career. Placements have been paid for thanks to a donation from the Cadbury family.

Under the Robin Cadbury Studentships there will be 40 funded placements for ballet students completing their training. The second part of the fund will be The Cadbury Dance Fellowships, which will see 12-month contracts with the company offered as a prize to two dancers who demonstrate exceptional talent.

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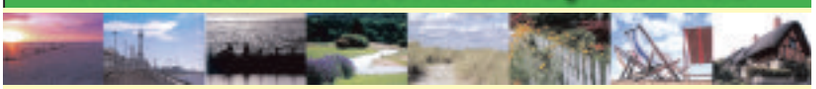

DAY TRIPS
OCTOBER
Sunday 13th, 20th & 27th *Blackpool Illuminations £15* all 7am - 8pm

NOVEMBER
Sunday 3rd *Blackpool Illuminations £15* all 7am - 8pm
Saturday 23rd *Ludlow Christmas Fayre Adults £19 OAP's £18 Child £15* 8am - 9pm
Sunday 24th *Ludlow Christmas Fayre Adults £19 OAP's £18 Child £15* 8am - 4pm
Saturday 30th *York Christmas Market Adults £15 OAP's £12 Child £12* 7am - 6pm

DECEMBER
Saturday 7th *Wellesbourne Market Stratford Adults £10 OAP's £9 Child £9* 8am - 5pm
Saturday 14th *Cheltenham Christmas Market Adult £10 OAP's £9 Child £9* 8am - 5pm
Tuesday 31st *London Bring In The New Year £30 pp* 9am - 2am

LOCAL PICK UP POINTS

HOLIDAYS
6th - 9th December - *4 days holiday to Torquay Burlington Hotel - Turkey & Tinsel,* including breakfast, dinner and entertainment *£199pp*
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13th - 16th December *3 days to Minehead Butlins,* including breakfast, dinner and entertainment *£199pp*
16th - 20th December *5 days to Lytham St Annes Monterey Beach Hotel*, including breakfast, dinner and entertainment *£199pp*
23rd - 27th December, Eastbourne, The Hilton Hotel, 5 days, including breakfast, dinner and entertainment call for full details £399 pp
27th - 30th December *4 days to Torquay, Burlington Hotel* including breakfast, dinner and entertainment *£199 pp*
27th - 30th December *4 days to Llandudno, The Grand Hotel,* including breakfast, dinner and entertainment *£179pp*
30th December - 2nd January *4 days to Torquay Burlington Hotel,* including breakfast, dinner along with New Year Party and entertainment, *£299 pp*

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Immaculate semi has £200,000 tag

DESCRIBED as immaculately-presented, this semi-detached house in Hydes Road, West Bromwich, is on the market priced at £200,000.

Accommodation comprises three bedrooms, two reception rooms, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, utility room, conservatory and family bathroom, the property also benefits from front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating where stated and garage.

On the ground floor the lounge has patio doors to the rear and gas coal effect fire and surround while the dining room has gas fire and surround and the kitchen a range of wall and base units, sink, work surfaces, range cooker, cooker hood, archway to storage cupboard and door to cloakroom with WC. There is also a utility room with plumbing for washing machine, and a uPVC conservatory.

Worton Kelly is marketing this Hydes Road semi-detached home

Decked

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with bath, shower cubicle ans vanity wash hand basin.

Outside to the front is a block paved driveway, borders and shrubs.

To the rear there is a decked area, borders and shrubs, block paved patio and lawned area with borders and shrubs.

Call Worton Kelly on 0121 588 5666 for details or to arrange a viewing.

The breakfast kitchen includes a range cooker, extractor over and ample storage space in its wall and base units

To the rear, an area of decking – ideal for dining – steps down to a neat garden with ornamental shrubs and trees

Open House estate agents

*** REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE THESE PROPERTIES ARE BEEN SOLD BY SEALED BIDS TO THE HIGHEST OFFER RECEIVED BY WED 2ND OCT 5 p.m ***
Unless sold prior to this date

Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, 2 Bed Flat,
Was £37,999 Been sold to highest offer over £29,999

Akrill Close, West Bromwich, 3 Bed End Terrace,
Was £119,950 Been sold to highest offer over £99,950

Barnford Hill Close, Langley Oldbury, 4 Bed Detached,
Was £219,950 Been sold to highest offer over £199,950

Long Lane, Halesowen, 2 Bed Semi Detached,
New to market Been sold to highest offer over £99,950

T&C apply

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NEW
Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury
Well Presented Individually Built Traditional Style Four Bedroomed Semi, Most Popular and Respected Residential Location. EPC - TBC
• Gas Central Heating • Ground Floor Bathroom • Double Glazing • Separate W/C • Lounge • Four Good Sized Bedrooms • Dining Kitchen • Rear Gardep, Garage With Driveway
Offers In The Region Of £239,950

NEW
Wyton Avenue, Oldbury
Superbly Appointed Modern Style Detached, In Excellent Order Throughout, Offering No Upward Chain, Internal Inspection Highly Recommended. EPC - TBC
• Gas Central Heating • Double Glazed Conservatory • Double Glazing • Three Bedrooms • Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room • En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom • Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs W/C • Gardens, Garage With Driveway
Offers In The Region Of £225,000

NEW
Mayswood Grove, Quinton
Traditional Style Semi, Cul-De-Sac Location, In Need Of Some Modernisation However Offering Excellent Potential. EPC - TBC
• Gas Central Heating • Three Bedrooms • Double Glazing • Bathroom • Two Reception Rooms • Rear Garden • Kitchen • NO UPWARD CHAIN INVOLVED
Offers In The Region Of £139,950

NEW
Brook Road, Oldbury
Well Presented Double Fronted Traditional Style Semi, Walking Distance To Local Amenities, Excellent First Time Purchase. EPC - D
• Gas Central Heating • Downstairs W/C, Utility Room • Double Glazing • Three Bedrooms • Lounge • Easy Maintained Rear Garden • Fitted Kitchen • Off Road Parking
Offers In The Region Of £119,950

NEW
Summerfields Avenue, Halesowen
Well Presented Traditional Style Semi Situated Within This Popular Residential Location, Catchment Area For Good Local Schools. EPC - D
• Gas Central Heating • Large Double Glazed Conservatory • Double Glazing • Three Bedrooms • Lounge, Separate Dining Room • Family Bathroom • Fitted Kitchen • Garden & Driveway Providing Off Road Parking
TO LET: £695 PCM

NEW
Barker Street, Oldbury
Extended Spacious Traditional Style Terrace, Situated Within Walking Distance To Local Amenities, Local Schools. EPC-D
• Gas Central Heating • Ground Floor Bathroom • Double Glazing • Three Bedrooms • Two Reception Rooms • Rear Garden • Extended Kitchen
TO LET: £595 PCM

NEW
Bunns Lane, Dudley
Two Bedroomed Traditional Style Semi, Easy Access To Local Amenities, M5/M6 Motorway Networks, EPC- D
• Gas Central Heating • Two Bedrooms • Double Glazing • Bathroom • Lounge • Rear Garden • Dining Kitchen • Driveway Providing Off Road Parking
TO LET: £475 PCM

NEW
Ascot Walk, Oldbury
Most Charming Well Presented Ground Floor Maisonette, Easy Access To M5/M6 Motorway Networks. EPC - TBC
• Electric Heating • Double Bedroom • Double Glazing • Bathroom • Lounge • Pleasant Communal Gardens • Fitted Kitchen • Off Road Parking
TO LET: £425 PCM

NEW PRICE
Perry Hill Road, Oldbury
Much Improved Recently Refurbished Terrace, Excellent Order Throughout, Easy Access To Local Amenities, Local Schools, EPC - C
• New Gas Central Heating System & Boiler • Three Bedrooms, Bathroom • Recently Re-Wired • Pleasant Gardens • Double Glazing • Garage With Rear Access • Spacious Lounge, Dining Kitchen • NO UPWARD CHAIN
Offers In The Region Of £132,950

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OLDBURY

Suffolk Close

A rare opprtunity to acquire a spacious, delightfully presented and considerably improved 3 bedroomed detached property, occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, separate dining room, attractive conservatory, fitted kitchen (having oven/hob), 3 bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), re-fitted shower room, drive providing off road parking for several vehicles, garage and pleasant, well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £199,950

OLDBURY

Dog Kennel Lane

A delightfully presented, thoughtfully improved and deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property set within this popular, convenient neighbourhood, and truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, welcoming hall, delightful lounge, separate dining room, re-fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), utility, downstairs bathroom, separate w.c, 3 bedrooms, super re-fitted house bathroom, off road parking and pleasant good sized rear garden. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers in excess of £160,000

OLDBURY

Swan Crescent

Traditional style 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating, and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, through lounge/dining area, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shared drive at the side leading to Garage and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £124,950

WARLEY WOODS AREA,

Wheatley Road

A deceptively spacious, attractive 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this popular neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, spacious lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear vestibule (with downstairs w.c off), attractive conservatory, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted shower room, drive providing off road parking, good sized garage and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £159,950

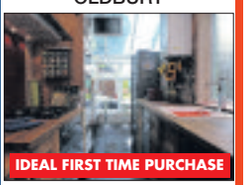
OLDBURY

Roway Lane

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed semi detached property convenient for local amenities and facilities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious through lounge/dining area, inner hall, attractive downstairs bathroom, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £112,000

OLDBURY



Causeway Green Road

A deceptively spacious, well presented 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated and truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Attractive dining room, delightful lounge, super re-fitted kitchen (with integrated oven/hob), 2 good sized bedrooms, super feature re-fitted bathroom, spacious loft area, pleasant rear garden and OFF ROAD PARKING AT THE REAR. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

£99,995

SMETHWICK

Dale Street

A deceptively spacious, well presented, 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, utility area, 2 double bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £99,950

OLDBURY

Broadway Court, Pottery Road

An opportunity to acquire a spacious, modern, delightfully presented double bedroomed ground floor apartment conveniently situated for local amenities and facilities, having double glazing, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious open plan lounge and kitchen area (with integral oven/hob, fridge/freezer and integrated washer/dryer), good sized double bedroom (having built in wardrobes), attractive bathroom, communal garden and allocated/visitor parking (set behind communal electric gates). VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £89,995

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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.10.2012

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Mid-terrace is in sought-after location

A modern breakfast kitchen is at the hub of the neat period property

45 Bishopton Road is in Bearwood

A THREE bedroom mid-terrace home in Bearwood, which is close to Lightwoods Park and local schools, is on the market with no upward chain – having been reduced in price to £159,950.

The property in Bishopton Road has a hallway, two reception rooms, inner hallway, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and front and rear gardens.

Agents say the traditional property is a sought after style, in keeping with the character of the area and with period features including original flooring, spacious breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances and low maintenance rear garden.

For more information call Oulsnam on 0121 429 9986.

One of the three bedrooms at the traditional mid-terrace

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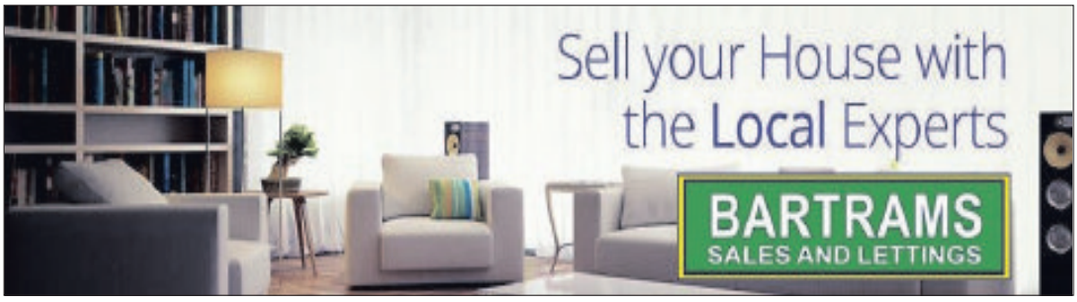

CAMBERLEY, BEACONVIEW ROAD,

- A Split Level Flat
- Two Bedrooms, 6th Floor
- Electric Heaters and Double Glazing
- Leasehold

£39,950

HAWTHORNE ROAD, WS5 4NB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, Freehold
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens

£124,950

MARSH LANE, B71 2DR

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Freehold

£69,950

CORONATION ROAD, DY4 0XU

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Ideal First Time Buy, Freehold

£79,950

PEARSON STREET, B70 9NJ

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms, Freehold
- Central Heating and Double Glazing

£99,950

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room

£99,950

DURHAM DRIVE, B71 1HT

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms, Freehold
- Central Heating and Double Glazed

£109,950

AKRILL CLOSE, B70 9SU

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Kitchen/ Diner, Freehold

£115,000

MONMOUTH DRIVE, B71 2SU

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Front & Rear Garden

£123,950

WARNER ROAD, WS10 0ET

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Garage

£124,500

THURSFIELD ROAD, B71 3DP

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, Large Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms, No Upward Chain
- Majority Double Glazed, Freehold

£159,950

CHRISHAVEN, BUSTLEHOME CRES-

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Central Heating and Double Glazing, Freehold
- Off Road Parking, Garage

£159,950

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Smartly Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms
- Paved Driveway and Side Garage
- Freehold, Viewing Recommended

£189,950

VICARAGE ROAD, WS10 9DW

- A New Build Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms, Two En Suites
- Driveway & Garage
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

£193,995

HIGH STREET, B70 6PP

- A Ground Floor Office Suite
- Two Office Areas, Kitchen Area
- Cellar, W.C
- Leasehold- New Agreement to be made.

£5,000 PER ANNUM

HALLAM COURT, B71 2HT

- A First Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Credit Checks Required

£500 PCM £500 DEPOSIT

BRIARLEY, WEST BROMWICH

- An 18th Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Six Months Tenancy Agreement
- Credit/Reference Checks Required

£375 PCM £375 DEPOSIT

BEVERLEY ROAD, B71 2LS

- Two Modern Apartments
- Both One Bedroom
- No Pets, No DSS
- Credit/Reference Checks Required

£425 PCM £425 DEPOSIT

CAMBERLEY, B71 3PF

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- Credit Checks Required
- Viewing by Appointment Only
- Available Now

£375 PCM £375 DEPOSIT

ASTON COURT, B71 3JP

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- Located In West Bromwich
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- All Applicants Must Pass A Credit Check

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- Detached Four Bedroom House
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- Jacuzzi, Gym & more features
- Detached Double Garage

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GOLDBY DRIVE
WEDNESBURY

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- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs WC ● Utility
- Family Bathroom ● Gas Central Heating
- Detached Garage
- Veiwing Essential

£235,000

JOCKEY LANE
WEDNESBURY

- Link Detached
- 3 Bedrooms ● Lounge
- Kitchen ● Utility Area
- Extended Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential

£189,995

EAGLE LANE
TIPTON

- FOUR bed Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- Integral Garage

£189,950

STELLA GROVE
GREAT BARR

- Extended Three Bed Semi ● Through Lounge
- Extended Fitted Breakfast/Kitchen
- High Specification Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Large Enclosed Rear Gardens
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location

£154,950

PEAKE DRIVE
TIPTON

- 3 BED Semi HOUSE
- call GOODCHILDS to VIEW
- End/Corner Plot
- Good SPACE Downstairs
- Drive & Gardens
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

£139,950

ST DAVIDS DRIVE
WEDNESBURY

- Three Bedroom
- Semi-Detached ● Lounge
- Dining Room ● Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C.
- Conservatory
- Detached Garage

£129,950

DARLASTON ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- NEW PRICE
- Newley Built 3 bed Semi Detched
- Family Bathroom & En-Suite
- DRIVE
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

REDUCED to £125,000

DURHAM ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom & Wetroom
- Large Drive

£124,995

NEW

CHARLOTTE ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- 3 Bed Semi Detached Home
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Large Rear Garden

£120,000

VICARAGE ROAD
WEDNESBURY

- 3 Bedrooms Character Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Terrace
- Well Decorated
- Viewing Essential

£119,950

NEW

RYDDING SQUARE
WEST BROMWICH

- 3 bed Semi Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Through Lounge & Conservatory
- Modern Kitchen
- Drive & Garage

Offers £100,000

CLOVER PIECE
TIPTON

- Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms ● Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Street Parking
- Viewing Essential

£95,000

SCHOOL STREET
WILLENHALL

- Four Bedroom Mid Terraced House
- 50% Shared Ownership
- Master Bedroom With Ensuite
- Conservatory
- Integral Garage

£84,950

BURRS DRIVE
WEDNESBURY

- 2 Bedroom Apartment ● Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom & Ensuite
- Family Bathroom
- Designated Parking
- Viewing Essential

£45,000

ROOTH STREET
SSTC in WEDNESBURY

- Butt Detached
- 4 Bedrooms ● 3 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory ● Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Garden
- New Roof
- New Damp Proof Course

SOLD STC

MELIA DRIVE
SSTC in WEDNESBURY

- Semi Detached ● 3/4 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms ● Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Study
- Downstairs WC
- Ensuite Shower Room

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- 3 BED Semi Detached
- Very Well Presented
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- Popular Location

SOLD STC

DANGERFIELD LANE
SSTC in WEDNESBURY

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms ● Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- NO CHAIN

SOLD STC

ADDISON TERRACE
SSTC in WEDNESBURY

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Separate Kitchen
- NO CHAIN
- Viewing advised

SOLD STC

THE COPPICE
SSTC in WEDNESBURY

- NO CHAIN
- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Drive & Gardens

SOLD STC

WALSALL STREET
SSTC in WEDNESBURY

- First Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Shower Room
- Fully Fitted Kitchen

SOLD STC

MANIFOLD WAY
SSTC in WEDNESBURY

- 1 Bedroom ● Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- NO CHAIN
- OPEN TO OFFERS
- LOOKING FOR QUICK SALE

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- Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

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Great Barr
Coronation Road

- 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended to Rear
- Fitted Kitchen/Utility
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

£625 PCM

Wednesbury
Nowell Street

- Refurbished Four Bedroom Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C.
- SORRY NO DHSS

£595 pcm

Tamebridge
Mistletoe Drive

- Two Bedrooms
- Fully Furnished
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£550 pcm

Wednesbury
Franchise Street,

- Two Bed Mid-Terrace
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 PCM

Wednesbury
Willenhall Street

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury
Whitley street

- Three Bedroom
- Entrance hall
- Conservatory
- Front rear garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
Wedgbury close

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Secured Entrance
- First Floor
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
Franchise Street

- 2 Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Gardens
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

High street
Moxley

- Three Bedrooms
- Down Stairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking to Rear
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
Blenheim Drive

- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
Freeman Road

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Darlaston
Gordon Street

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 PCM

Wednesbury
Holyhead road,

- One Bedroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Ground Floor
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 PCM

Wednesbury
The avenue

- Two Bedrooms
- 2nd Floor Apartment
- Lounge with Juliet Balcony
- Entrance Hallway
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 pcm

Wednesbury
Addenbrooke Street

- Mid Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility Room
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 pcm

West Bromwhich
Crankhall Lane

- One Bedroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Designated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£425 pcm

Wednesbury
MANIFOLD WAY,

- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£395 PCM

Darlaston
Pinfold street

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

£395 PCM

Tipton
High Street

- 2 Bedroom
- Flat Above Shop
- Gas central heating
- Fitted kitchen
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£340 pcm

FREE

Free 6 month rent guarantee
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Free EPC

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NEW

Poplar Road, Bearwood

- A Well Presented End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Spacious Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £154,950

NEW

Talbot Road, Bearwood

- A Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern, Re-fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £114,950

NEW

Loxley Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Close To Local Amenities
- EP Rating: TBC

Offers in the region of £154,950

REDUCED

Bishopton Road, Bearwood

- An Attractive Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £159,950

REDUCED

Glynside Avenue, Quinton

- A Well Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £140,000

THIS WEEKS STAR BUY

Park Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Attractive Throughout
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Stylish Kitchen and Bathroom
- Popular Location
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £139,950

Thimblemill Road, Smethwick

- Much Improved Semi
- Beautfully Presented
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Generously Sized Rear Garden
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £159,950

Woodbourne Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £199,950

Park Avenue, Smethwick

- A Two Double Bed Terrace
- Spacious Breakfast Kitchen
- Ample Storage
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £89,950

Upper St Marys Road, Bearwood

- A Delightful Mid Terrace
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Close to Amenities
- EP Rating D

Offers from £140,000

Thimblemill Road, Bearwood

- A Charming Traditional Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Good Transport Links
- Close to Local Amenities
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £109,950

Johnsons Grove, Oldbury

- Well Presented Link Detached
- Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £194,950

Barston Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- EP Rating: E

Price from £150,000

Oldacre Road, Oldbury

- An Attractive End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £104,950

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Bearwood

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Bearwood

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Bearwood

SOLD!
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MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Bearwood

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Oldbury

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Oldbury

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Oldbury

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Smethwick

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

Smethwick

SOLD!
MORE PROPERTIES REQUIRED!

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PUBLIC AUCTION

AT THIMBLEMILL RECEATION AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE THIMBLEMILL ROAD SMETHWICK B67 6NR ON MONDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2013, AT 6.30 P.M.

Anticipated Price Range

7 MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD, B67 5BP
Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated and double glazed villa **£95-105,000**

36 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, BEARWOOD, B66 4DW
Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced needing full renovation **£70-80,000**

10 BOWDEN ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 7PA
Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated terraced.. **£80-90,000**

20 CUMBERLAND ROAD, OLDBURY, B68 0AL
Freehold, centrally heated double fronted 3/4 bedroomed town house **£80-90,000**

71 THE AVENUE, ACOCKS GREEN, B27 6NL
Freehold double glazed 3 bedroomed town house needing some improvements **£80-90,000**

17 WESTFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 6AW
Freehold 3 bedroomed terrace requiring improvement..... **£70-80,000**

79 HILLTOP ROAD, OLDBURY, B68 9DU
Freehold 3 bedroomed double glazed semi detached needing improvement..... **£75-80,000**

131 FARM ROAD, OLDBURY, B68 8PL
Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated semi detached in need of upgrading..... **£90-100,000**

94 RATHBONE ROAD, BEARWOOD, B67 5JF
Freehold 2 bedroomed double glazed terraced in need of upgrading..... **£90-100,000**

25 WESTON ROAD, BEARWOOD, B67 5HH
Freehold centrally heated 2 bedroomed terraced needing some improvement **£90,000**

274 GILLOTT ROAD, EDGBASTON, B16 0RU
Freehold semi detached investment currently 5 flats **£170-180,000**

KNOTSALL LANE, OLDBURY – building plot
Freehold building plot suitable for 3 bedroomed detached dwelling..... **£40-50,000**

55 MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD, B67 5BQ
Freehold 2 bedroomed terraced needing renovation..... **£100-110,000**

34 SWAN CRESCENT, OLDBURY
- Extended semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- 3 bedrooms and bathroom with shower
- Impressive through lounge/dining room
- Open plan kitchen/breakfast room
- 25ft detached garage
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950
Viewing: Bearwood Office

MILTON COURT, BEARWOOD
- Purpose built development
- Second floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Landscaped garden surrounds
- Exclusive to the over 55w
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £59,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

119 SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed and alarmed
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with individual shower compartment
- Extended through lounge/dining room
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for two cars
- Internal inspection to be appreciated

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £110,000
Viewing Bearwood Office

19 PERRY COURT, OLDBURY
- First floor flat off main Hagley Road West
- Electric storage heating and double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- Designated for over 60s (55+ with a disability)
- Warden controlled accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £64,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

70 NEW HENRY STREET, OLDBURY
- Modern freehold town house
- Gas centrally heated, PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and refitted bathroom
- Hall, downstairs cloakroom, through lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen and neatly laid out gardens to the rear
- Off-street parking for two cars to the front
- With internal inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £117,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

10A ANDERSON ROAD, BEARWOOD
- An individual cottage style detached residence.
- Private and quiet location close to Bearwood High Street
- Unique centrally heated accommodation.
- Two bedrooms, bathroom with shower hall lounge and fitted kitchen
- Gardens on three sides and off street parking for at least two cars plus driveway approach
- Comprehensive day-to-day amenities close by
- Easy access to Birmingham City
- Energy Rating : C

OFFERS BASED ON £142,000
Viewing Bearwood Office

4 NORMAN ROAD, SMETHWICK
- Freehold semi-detached property
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, through lounge/dining room & kitchen
- Side garage and off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : E

Offers based on £149,950
Viewings: Bearwood Office

MANSION CRESCENT, SMETHWICK
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Hall and spacious lounge
- Refitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Conservatory
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950
Viewing: Bearwood Office

44 GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid terraced property.
- Located close to Bearwood High street and providing easy access to Birmingham City Centre.
- Fully gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed.
- Two double bedrooms.
- Through lounge/ dining room.
- Fitted kitchen.
- Bathroom.
- Gardens to the rear.
- Ideally suited for first time buyers.

OFFERS BASED ON £104,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

93 BARCLAY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Sought after location directly facing Warley Woods
- Substantial villa residence with many traditional features
- Gas centrally heated & double glazed virtually throughout
- Through hall, inter-communicating lounge and dining room
- Excellent refitted kitchen/ breakfast room
- Family room with separate fully tiled shower room, ideal for GRANNY FLAT OR SIMILAR
- Three double bedrooms and half tiled bathroom
- Loft conversion providing occasional bedroom, games room or similar
- Established gardens
- Good on-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £244,950
Viewings: Bearwood Office

37 CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY
- Superbly presented and refurbished semi-detached
- Close to Warley Woods & Lightwoods Park and having easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and refitted fully tiled bathroom
- Fully boarded Loft
- Hallway, lounge and open plan dining room/refitted kitchen
- Utility and downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Off-street parking for two/three cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £234,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

109 HOLLY LANE, SMETHWICK
- Pleasant location directly facing West Smethwick Park
- Many original features and mostly double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom with shower
- Two reception rooms with original fireplaces
- Mature well stocked gardens
- Off-street parking and side car port
- ENERGY RATING : G

OFFERS BASED ON £134,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

10 SEFTON ROAD, EDGBASTON
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Two double bedrooms and study
- First floor bathroom
- Impressive hallway
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs shower room
- Small utility
- Neatly laid out garden to rear
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

18 MERRIVALE ROAD, BEARWOOD
- Traditional freehold terraced villa
- Gas centrally heated and mostly double glazed plus an alarm system
- Exceptionally convenient location close to the main Bearwood Road
- Two double bedrooms with original fireplaces and large bathroom
- Hall, sitting room, separate lounge, spacious kitchen and morning/breakfast room
- Mature well stocked gardens
- Comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

BLANDFORD ROAD, QUINTON
- End town house close to The Holly Bush
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, lounge and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

Offers based on £79,950
Viewings: Bearwood Office

35 NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD, OLDBURY
- Modern second floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Well planned accommodation
- Integral garage
- Off-street parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE

OFFERS BASED ON £89,500
Viewing Bearwood Office

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Great Bridge

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW

HEMPOLE LANE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Modern three bedroomed semi detached
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Conservatory
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Driveway
- Rear garden

£122,500

FEATURED PROPERTY

NEW

ST HELENS AVENUE
TIPTON

- Modern four bedroom detached
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and utility room
- Downstairs WC
- En suite to master bedroom plus family bathroom
- Attic bedroom
- Driveway and garage
- Rear garden

£199,995

MANAGER'S CHOICE

NEW

MYRTLE TERRACE
TIPTON

- Three bedroom detached
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen diner
- Downstairs shower room
- First floor family bathroom
- Double glazing and central heating (where specified)
- Driveway
- Rear garden

£169,995

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 0121 520 2255

NEW

WHITGREAVE STREET
WEST BROMWICH

- Extended three bedroomed semi detached
- Lounge/dining room
- Extended kitchen
- Conservatory
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)

£139,995

NEW

CROMPTON ROAD
TIPTON

- EPC Rating E
- Well proportioned end terrace
- Three double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Condensing central heating

£91,950

NEW

SOLLY GROVE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- First floor one bedroom flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

£51,950

NEW

TURNER STREET
TIPTON

- EPC Rating E
- Three bedroomed semi detached on a corner plot
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)

£99,995

NEW

JAYS AVENUE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Three bedroomed extended end terrace
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Conservatory

£99,995

NEW

ANITA AVENUE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Two bedroom modern mid terraced
- Breakfast kitchen
- Lounge
- Lean to

£95,000

STANDBRIDGE WAY
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Five/ Six bedroom
- Modern detached
- Lounge & Dining room
- Sittingroom & Conservatory

£329,995

NEWCOMEN DRIVE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Substantially extended detached house
- Four bedrooms
- En suite to master
- Two receptions including 28ft living room

£194,995

FIELD ROAD
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and family bathroom
- Double glazing and central heating (where specified)

£149,995

WILDAY CLOSE
TIPTON

- Energy rating D
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge with arch to dining room
- Conservatory
- En suite to master bedroom

£147,950

WOODING CRESCENT
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Modern three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Conservatory

£139,995

WOLSELEY ROAD
WEST BROMWICH

- EPC Rating D
- Extended three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)

£129,995

TIPPS STONE CLOSE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Three bedroom end terrace town house
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Conservatory

£119,995

CATHERTON CLOSE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Modern two bedroom semi detached
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom

£114,995

BLOOMFIELD TERRACE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Two bedroom Semi Daetached
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory

£99,995

SHERIDON STREET
WEST BROMWICH

- EPC Rating E
- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Central Heating & Double Glazing (where specified)

£97,950

RUGELEY CLOSE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C.
- Modern top floor two bedroom flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family bathroom

£79,000

SANDGATE ROAD
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Two bedroom semi detached
- Through lounge /dining room
- Kitchen
- First floor bathroom

£68,000

REDUCED

COBURG CROFT
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Three bedroom modern detached
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- En suite to master bedroom

Was £140,995 Now £139,995

REDUCED

HAINES CLOSE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Conservatory
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC and first floor family bathroom

WAS £139,995 NOW £134,995

REDUCED

EDWARD FISHER DRIVE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Modern two bedroom mid terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)

Was £104,995 Now £99,995

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Walsall Road

Pommel Close

Ground floor maisonette. Briefly comprising of One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Storage Heaters and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing Essential. No Chain Energy Rating 53 (E)

£62,500

West Bromwich

Sunnydale Walk

Immaculately Presented First Floor Maisonette. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom and Communal Gardens. Viewing Highly Recommended. Energy Rating 69 (C)

£62,995

Wednesbury

The Avenue

Well presented ground floor apartment. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Communal Garden; Communal Parking, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 80 (C)

£75,000

West Bromwich

Marsh Lane

A semi demi detached property located in the popular are of Stone Cross, West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Double Glazing and Central Heating where specified. Viewing Essential. EPC- TBC

£80,000

Wednesbury

Friar Park Road

Well Presented Mid Terrace Property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Room, Kitchen Diner, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Front and Rear Gardens, Central Heating and Double Glazing. Viewing Essential. Energy Rating 57 (D)

£85,000

Walsall

Radford Close

Mid terraced property in need of modernisation. The Property briefly comprises of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Store Room, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended. Energy Rating 59 (D)

£90,000

Wednesbury

Friar Park Road

Three Bedroom End Terrace Property. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen , Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens. Energy Rating (D)

£105,000

West Bromwich

Boulton Road

A well presented mid terraced property. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating D (67)

£105,000 OIEO

West Bromwich

Wiltshire Way

This immaculately presented semi detached property. Located in the desired are of West Bromwich briefly comprises of Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Double Glazing and Central Heating where specified. Viewing highly recommended. Energy Rating 63 (D)

£107,950

West Bromwich

Jayne Close

A semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating where specified. EPC- TBC

£130,000

West Bromwich

Brecknock Road

REDUCED BY 5,000

Well Presented Three Storey Mid Terrace Property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, En Suite To Master Bedroom, Down Stairs Bathroom, Utility Room, Garage, Off Road Parking, Front and Rear Gardens, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing Essential To Appreciate This Property. Energy Rating 80 (C)

£130,000 OIEO

West Bromwich

Monkgate Drive

An intermediate modern family home in a desirable estate; accommodation comprising of Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden, Allocated Parking, Alarm System, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. No Upwards Chain Energy Rating 79 (C)

£130,000

West Bromwich

Hall Green Road

A well presented traditional semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Down Stairs WC, First Floor Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended. NO UPWARDS CHAIN Energy Rating 52 (E)

£140,000

West Bromwich

Hall Green Road

Well presented semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Four Bedrooms, Three Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs wc, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. No Chain Energy Rating 70 (C)

£150,000 OIEO

West Bromwich

Thursfield Road

A well presented semi detached property in a desired area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing and Central Heating where specified. Viewing Highly Recommended. EPC- TBC

£165,000

Birmingham

Greenridge Road

A well presented semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating where specified. Viewing is highly recommended. Energy Rating D (55)

£165,000

West Bromwich

Malvern Close

£10,000 Reduction. Viewing Essential!

Executive detached dormer bungalow. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Room, Kitchen Diner, Cloakroom, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage With Forecourt, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 48 (E)

£210,000

West Bromwich

Haypits Close

Well Presented detached bungalow in a desired area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Central heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 49 (E)

£215,000

West Bromwich

Walsall Road

Well Presented end terrace property. Briefly comprising of Five Bedrooms, Three Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Down Stairs Shower Room, Up Stair Bathroom, En Suite To Master Bedroom, Off Road Parking, Central Heating and Double Glazing. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 74 (C)

£225,000

West Bromwich

Jervoise Lane

well presented spacious semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified, Rear and Side Gardens, Off Road Parking to the Front and Side. Viewing Highly Recommended. Energy Rating 58 (D)

£230,000

West Bromwich

Church View Bungalow

Well presented semi-detached dorma bungalow. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms to the ground floor and One being in the dorma, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 55 (D)

£230,000 OIEO

West Bromwich

Hall Green Road

A immaculately presented detached bungalow. Briefly comprising of Two Bedrooms, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest Cloakroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended. NO CHAIN Energy Rating 74 (C)

£280,000

West Bromwich

Harrington Croft

Immaculately well-presented detached property in the desired area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Cloak Room, Conservatory, En Suite To Master Bedroom, Front and Rear Garden, Off Road Parking and Garage. Energy Rating 75 (C)

£300,000

West Bromwich

David Harman Drive

Immaculately presented property in the desired area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Five Bedrooms, En Suite To Master, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen Diner, Utility Room, Down Stairs WC, Shower Room, Conservatory, Detached Garage, Front and Rear Gardens, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 74 (C)

£329,950

West Bromwich

Hill Top

A first floor flat located with shop premises in the Hill Top Area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Recent Refurbishment and Carpets throughout, Spacious Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen and Bathroom. Available immediately for six months to long term. Energy Rating 71 (C)

£400 PCM + Fees

Oldbury

Pinfold Street

Well presented modern apartment. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Communual gated gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating. Energy Rating 82 (B)

£475 PCM + Fees

Darlaston

Boswell Close

A Semi-Detached property, with accomodation comprising of Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens. The property will be available Mid June 2013 due to Refurbishment, however viewings will take place prior to this date. EPC - TBC DSS & Pets considered. Energy Rating 58 (D)

£550 PCM + Fees

West Bromwich

Alexandra Crescent

Semi-Detached Property which briefly comprises of Three Bedrooms, Reception Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and Large Gardens. Available Immediately 6 Months - Long Term. Energy Rating D (59)

£575 PCM + Fees

West Bromwich

Kestevens Road

A well presented semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens with Off Road Parking. EPC- TBC

£595 PCM + Fees

West Bromwich

Smithmoor Crescent

An extremely well presented mid terrace property. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with separate wc, Off Road Parking To The Front and Spacious Rear Garden. Energy Rating 59 (D)

£600 PCM + Fees

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Oakley Avenue
Tipton

- Mordern Semi Detached
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- 3 bedrooms
- EPC rating D,

OFFERS OVER: £135,000
Viewing:

Falcon Place
Oldbury

- purpose built third floor flat
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- security entrance doors
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating TBC

OFFERS AROUND: £54,950
Viewing:

Star Close
Tipton

- modern semi detached
- immaculate / improved accommodation
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- epc rating TBC
- lounge
- new modern fitted kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- modern fitted bathroom, attractive rear garden

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £113,950

Coburg Croft
Tipton

- modern detached
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- corner plot
- 3 bedrooms + en suite, epc rating C

OFFERS AROUND: £139,995
Viewing:

Leasowe Road
Tipton

- middle terrace
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- no upward chain
- 3 bedrooms, epc rating D

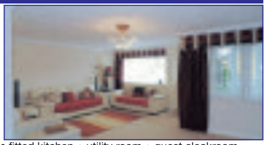
OFFERS AROUND: £79,950
Viewing:

Anvil Crescent
Bilston

- modern end terrace
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- no upward chain
- 3 bedrooms, epc rating D

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

St Helens Avenue
Tipton



- considerably improved modern detached
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- loft conversion + garage conversion
- epc rating C
- lounge + extended dining room
- fitted kitchen + utility room + guest cloakroom
- 4 bedrooms + en suite shower room
- family bathroom,

Viewing

OFFERS AROUND: £199,995

Wordsworth Close
Tipton

- modern end terrace
- upvc double glazing
- ideal starter home + immaculate accommodation
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating TBC

OFFERS AROUND: £84,950
Viewing:

St Helens Avenue
Tipton

- modern semi detached
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- sought after development
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating C

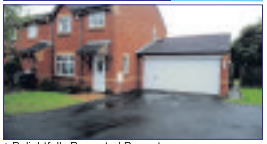
OFFERS AROUND: £108,750
Viewing:

Ashtree Road
Oldbury

- traditional detached
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- no upward chain
- 3 bedrooms, epc rating E

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Horsecroft Drive
West Bromwich
NEW



- Delightfully Presented Property
- Double Garage With Driveway
- Spacious Rear Garden
- Energy Rating D, Double Glazed Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £170,000
Viewing:

Wolseley Road
West Bromwich
NEW

- End Terrace Property
- 3 Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Energy Rating D, Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £116,000
Viewing:

Denbeigh Drive
West Bromwich
NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- , Lounge With Coal Burning Fire

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Rowley View
West Bromwich
REDUCED

- Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- Sought After Residential Area
- Three Bedrooms
- Energy Rating D, Upstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £114,950
Viewing:

Oak Lane
West Bromwich

- Mid Terraced House
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Energy Rating D, Two Reception Rooms

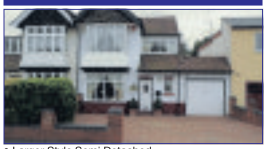
OFFERS AROUND: £89,950
Viewing:

Creed Way
West Bromwich

- Modern First Floor Appartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Town Centre Location
- Energy Rating B, NHBC Guarentee

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000
Viewing:

Thursfield Road
West Bromwich



- Larger Style Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Energy Rating TBC, Through Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £195,000
Viewing:

Hartland Road
West Bromwich

- End Of Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Rear Garden
- Energy Rating TBC, Downstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Tompstone Road
West Bromwich

- End Of Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Energy Rating TBC, Garage To Rear

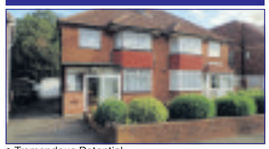
OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Old Meeting Street
West Bromwich

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Allocated Secure Parking
- Energy Rating B, Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £75,000
Viewing:

Temple Meadows Road
West Bromwich



- Tremendous Potential
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating TBC D, Extended Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £159,950
Viewing:

Hall Green Wharf
West Bromwich

- Modern Detached Bungalow
- Situated On An Exclusive Gated Development
- Recently Reduced
- 10 Year NHBC Certificate, Gas Central Heating

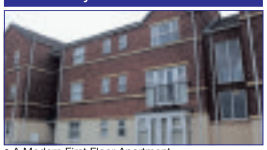
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing:

Dove Close
Wednesbury

- A 4 Bedroom Detached Home Located in Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Falls Within Wood Green School Encatchment Area
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £210,000
Viewing:

Bagnalls Wharf
Wednesbury



- A Modern First Floor Apartment
- No Upward Chain!
- Electric Panel Heating
- EPC Rating: C, UPVc Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Hydes Road
Wednesbury

- Individually Built Detached House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Reception Hall
- No Upward Chain, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

William Green Road
Wednesbury

- A 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as Spec.)
- Generous Corner Plot
- Energy Rating D, Excellent Views

OFFERS OVER: £90,000
Viewing:

Dorsett Road
Wednesbury

- A Traditional & Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detache
- Well Presented
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC Rating: D, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Farmer Way
Tipton

- An Extended 3 Bedroom Detached Home (Previously a 4 Bedroom)
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)

OFFERS AROUND: £170,000
Viewing:

Chestnut Road
Wednesbury

- A Delightful 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Extermely Well Presented
- Very Popular Location
- EPC Rating: TBC, Gas Centrally Heated & Double

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing:

Stafford Road
Wednesbury

- Traditional Detached House
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- EPC Rating (B), Three Bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Cook Street
Darlaston

- Improved Modern End Terrace
- Porch Entrance & Reception Hall
- Lounge
- EPC Rating: C, Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £114,995
Viewing:

Booth Road
Wednesbury

- A 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazed (as spec.)
- No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating: TBC, Reception Hall & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: £87,950
Viewing:

York Crescent
Wednesbury

- A Traditional 3 Bedrom Semi Detached Home
- The Potential to Modernise & Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Smith Avenue
Wednesbury

- Extended 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central heating & UPVc Double Glazing (as specified)
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

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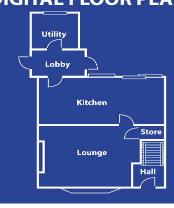

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Seat set to put new Leon through its paces

LONG-term tests are about living with a car every day, doing all kinds of driving, and exposing the best and the worst of what real buyers will see for themselves. There are many things that a few hours behind the wheel on a new car launch just can't tell you.

Seat has put a lot of investment into the new Leon in an attempt to cut the gap on the perennial sales bonanza enjoyed by its sister car, the Volkswagen Golf.

While the Golf has become ever more straight-line sensible in its styling though, the Leon has brought together a stunning combination of curves, angles and overall poise to create something that looks much more interesting. The question is: do its real-world talents match up?

This is what I'm aiming to find out by taking delivery of a just run-in five-door Leon for the next six months. I've picked the mid-range SE model, which has a lot of little touches over and above the base S grade version, but is a healthy amount cheaper than the body-kitted and more ostentatious FR. I've also chosen a petrol engine, in light of the incredible work the Volkswagen Group has done to improve the driveability and efficiency of its unleaded-drinking powerplants.

Pages upon pages have been written about the 104bhp 1.2-litre TSI turbocharged petrol and it's fairly well known as a great unit. In light of that, I've opted for its big brother, the 138bhp 1.4 TSI. It's going to be interesting to see whether it can justify the extra £1,050 over the 1.2. They share a road tax band but the 1.2 is four insurance groups lower and allegedly 3mpg more frugal, so I'll be aiming to see whether the higher performance from the 1.4 is worth it.

The new Seat Leon, a stunning combination curves, angles and overall poise

Seat has put a lot of investment into the the new Leon in a bid to boost sales

In terms of options, OU13 YBM has got only the key ones Seat reckons will be most popular with buyers. Chief among them is the Technology Pack, which brings with it full LED headlights – a first for any C-segment car – along with DAB radio and sat-nav courtesy of a good-sized colour screen mounted reasonably high up on the dashboard. Initially Seat dropped the pack's near-£1,100 price to £500, but further down the line it became, amazingly, free of charge.

Technology

The headlights are a big deal for Seat and the market in general and after much deal-making within the VW Group, the Leon has secured first rights to the new technology, even ahead of the Golf and Audi A3.

The idea behind LED headlights is not just that they use much less energy than traditional bulbs or high-intensity xenon lamps; the light the special LEDs create is closer in colour to natural daylight than any alternatives, allegedly making it easier for the human eye to distinguish contrast and movement within the beam. As the nights draw in later this year, I'll have the perfect opportunity to test the theory.

On top of the Technology Pack there are 17in alloy wheels, which certainly fill the wheel arches more convincingly but could also be more exposed to damage from kerbs. I'll look into this and see whether the move was a wise one or not.

Other than that, the car is standard, so with the Golf lined up as a significantly more expensive option and the Skoda Octavia perhaps being bigger than some people want or need, the time has come for the Leon to prove itself within the VW Group. I'm going to pile the miles on it, encompassing driving at every time of day and night, motorway trips, urban scratching, Sunday afternoon blasts and of course the weekly shop. My partner, Laura, will also be driving it, and since most family cars are shared between parents, her opinion will be invaluable. It's game on, Leon, so let's see what you're made of.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring

star extra TRAVEL

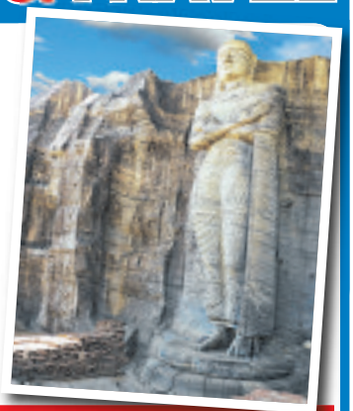
Sri Lanka

Join this comprehensive tour and discover the delights of old Ceylon with its sacred caves, ancient temples and lost cities, ending with two days relaxing on one of Sri Lanka's idyllic tropical beaches. Travel on return scheduled flights from London Heathrow and stay in charming hand-picked three-star hotels, with daily breakfast and dinner included.

One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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Various departure dates

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- Jeep safari in Yala National Park
- Galle city tour
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star extra TRAVEL

VIETNAM and Cambodia

The beautiful country of Vietnam is a mosaic of mist-shrouded mountains, vibrant green forests, a patch-work of rice paddies and pristine white beaches, whilst its villages and cities are custodians of the culture and monuments of a unique 2,000 year old civilisation.

In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and stake pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light rise over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat – its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.

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- Visit the Cu Chi tunnels in Saigon
- Full-day cruise along the mighty Mekong River delta
- Visit the ancient city and temples of Angkor, Cambodia
- Guided tour of Phnom Penh
- Single rooms subject to availbility – supplement applies

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Motoring

The Mercedes GLA compact SUV has muscular styling and excellent aerodynamics

Mercedes makes its first trip into the compact SUV sector

MERCEDES has unveiled the brand new GLA, the company's first challenger in the compact SUV sector.

With two-wheel and four-wheel drive options and surprising efficiency, thanks in part to excellent aerodynamics, the GLA is built more obviously for the road than any prior Mercedes G-series car.

At around 4.4 metres long, 1.8 metres wide (excluding mirrors) and 1.5 metres high, the GLA has a purposeful, muscular stance that will sit well with buyers looking for a compact SUV with a little more visual impact than many of the current options.

It has the safety features to back up its looks, with an extremely complex stability control system able to counter-steer in the event of oversteer, emergency braking, hard acceleration, cross-winds and road camber.

The option of four-wheel drive refers to a new on-demand system that sends more power to the rear wheels only when needed. It's lighter than permanent four-wheel drive systems and allows for greater efficiency at the cost of outright off-road capability; something few, if any, GLA owners will need.

Four engines will initially be available, starting with a turbocharged 1.6-litre petrol GLA 200 with 154bhp, rising through a 2.0-litre, 208bhp turbo petrol to a pair of 2.1-litre diesels with 134bhp and 168bhp.

The 2.0-litre petrol promises to be the most flexible and fastest, passing 62mph in 6.5 seconds thanks to a torque output as high as the more potent diesel's, but over an even broader rev range.

Fuel economy hunters should seek out the 134bhp GLA 200 CDI, which according to official tests can manage 65mpg on the combined cycle in conjunction with just 114g/km, although these are provisional figures.

Final UK spec and pricing is yet to be confirmed, however, and it could be 2014 before the model arrives on these shores.

Choice of five trim levels on the new Hyundai ix35 SUV

The ix35 from Hyundai is now on sale with prices from £16,995, with a five-year warranty as standard

THE new Hyundai ix35 is now on sale and costs from £16,995, the Korean firm has confirmed.

There will be five trim levels for the new SUV, comprising S, SE, SE Nav, Premium and Premium Panorama.

All models come with a long list of standard equipment that includes LED daytime running lights, tyre pressure monitoring system and Trailer Stability Assist to help when towing.

There are also alloy wheels, air conditioning, Hill Assist Control and Downhill Brake Control for off-road driving.

Both two and four-wheel drive versions of the ix35 will be available depending on engine choice.

There are 1.6-litre petrol and 1.7- and 2.0-litre turbodiesel engines to pick from. The popular 1.7-litre diesel offers 139g/km carbon dioxide emissions, while the new 2.0-litre diesel delivers improved 41.5mpg and 179g/km CO2 emissions compared to the previous version.

Hyundai is also offering the Safety and Comfort Pack for SE models and above that comes with front parking sensors, Supervision cluster, Flex Steer and a tyre pressure display for £795. As with all new Hyundai cars, a five-year warranty is included as standard with the ix35.

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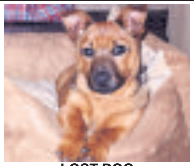

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www.cloisterstutoring.co.uk
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

SMART TUITION SERVICES Tuition for 11+ and key stage 3/4 maths & science. £12/ hour, (Smethwick based) 07816825604.

elderly & disabled

ELECTRIC RISE and recline chair, good condition. £100. Must collect. 01785 714233.

FOOT ABLE - Struggling to reach your toe nails? Call for a home visit, 07846 326801 - NHS reg.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

MOBILITY SCOOTER Prism Sport, cost £965 new, 10.6.13. Fits in boot of car. 4 wheels, carry bag on back, two mirrors, £450. 01543 674663.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WHEELCHAIR
Fitted with powerpack for assisted push along, as new.
£325.
ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR
Small, controls on right side, as new, used once,**£825.**
Telephone 01922 624799.

2 Leisure Time

camping equipment

PENINE FIESTA FOLDING CAMPER
2006, four berth, cooker, sink, fridge, fully awning, excellent condition,
£1,950 ono.
01543 278472.

car boot sales

BEST BOOT SALE SUPER MARKETS
Saturday 8am - 1pm
A454, Rudge Heath, between W'ton & bridgnorth, WV6 7EE
Saturday 10am - 2pm
Barracks lane, populars farm, Between Walsall & Lichfield, WS9 9DL
Sunday 8am - 1pm
Cocksparrow lane, Cannock, WS12 4PB
Wednesday 10am start
Pouk lane, Muckley corner, Between Walsall & Lichfield, WS14 0ET
www.bestbootsale.com
07890267041

SUNDAY CAR BOOT SALE
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane, Lichfield WS14 0BE
EVERY SUNDAY
6:30am - 2pm Muckley Corner
£3.50 any Pitch-Car-Van
07538842842

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK Near Ludlow Seasons end static caravan sale now on. why go further? Call Alma on 01584 823433

ABI JUBILEE
1996, 5 berth, 17ft, ba heating, full oven/cooker. full shower room, flyscreens/blinds, awning. Very good upholstry. Very clean inside/out.
£1,795 ono.
07973 735809.

BAILEY PAGEANT BORDEAUX
2005, 4-berth, fixed bed, blown air heating, four burner cooker, shower, fridge.
All usual refinements plus extras.
Non-smokers. No pets.
No children.
Very little used.
Must be seen.
First £5,500 will tow it away.
01543 422602/07732 128314

COACHMAN VIP 2 berth, 1999, end bathroom/shower, porch full awning, storage paid, £2,500 ono. 01543 374581 / 07594 573526.

FLEETWOOD

CAVENDISH

1997, 4 berth, full awning, ground sheet, many extras including hitchlock, wheel clamp, TV DVD, pole/antenna inverter, matching electric/gas kettle, microwave, toaster, Cris reg., can use my storage plot as paid for until January 2014.

Excellent condition, must be seen.

£2,350. ono.

07791 725914 Hednesford.

FORD HERALD TEMPLAR MOTORHOME 2.5 DIESEL
Manual, 4/5 berth, hot/cold, 3 way fridge, cooker, cassette toilet, cycle rack/towbar, tax Nov 13, Full MoT. radio/cd. Reliable.
£8,000. 01543 257918.

caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

jumble sales / fetes

HALLAM STREET METHODIST CHURCH WEST BROMWICH
Jumble Sale
Saturday, Sep 28, 2013.
at 12.30pm.

JUMBLE SALE
Charlemont Methodist Church,
Charlemont Road,
West Bromwich.
Saturday, September 28th , at 11am
Admission 10p.

TABLE TOP AT Baptist Church, Tantany Lane. Fundraising for Macmillan and Guides. Saturday 28 September. 11am - 2pm.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
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For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

mind, body & soul

complimentary therapy

ALTERNATIVE HEALING Pain relief, reduces anxiety, stress, depression, and aids general well being. Call: Tina 07934 969756.

hair & beauty

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psychics

PSYCHIC READINGS & party bookings. West Brom indoor market. Special Offer £15. 07957 107958.

holiday feature

35x12FT 6 BERTH CARAVAN Small, quiet rural site. Excelent condition. UPVC verandah and ramp, patio and parking area. Suit semi / retired. £13,995 inc all fees. 07891 528061 or 01686 670408.

what's on

table top sale

COFFEE MORNING SALE
In aid of Sandwell Macmillan Nurses,
Oakham Evangelical Church,
City Road, Tividale.
Saturday, September 28, 9.30 - 12.00, admission 50p.

weddings

3 Home & Services

furniture

CHOCOLATE BROWN LEATHER 3-PIECE SUITE
Never been used. Unwanted gift. Still packaged. Cost over £1000. Can deliver.
£385.
07585 932589.

ERCOL ROOM DIVIDER, 1960, elm and beech, 2 adjustable shelves with bottom cupboard, £375 ono. Telephone 0121 559 5270.

RAISE FACILITY CHAIR, new armchair with side lever, from Disaids, dark red, £370 ono. 01543 574527.

SUE RYDER NEW Charity shop open 27th Sep, Cannock. Need donations urgently. 01827 310963

TWO BROWN LEATHER electric full recliner chairs and a two-seater brown leather settee. Very good condition. £500. 01543 270606.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER, in excellent condition, £85.
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in your garden

AVIS LTD
Top Soil, Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Sand
Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
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BLOXWICH FENCING
A Supply and Fit or DIY
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or 01922 712184

A BEST QUALITY cultivated turf, laying service. Same day delivery. 01902 686550 or 07891 165565.

AT C B SHEDS & FENCING We supply/fit. Free quotes. Supply sleepers & decking 01922 720270.

MUSHROOM COMPOST. Bagged, delivered, excellent soil conditioner. 01386 442882. www.eveshammarketgardener.co.uk

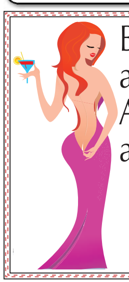
COPINGS 5 ½ INCH
Grade 2
£1.95 inc VAT each to clear.
Other sizes available.
Keelings Coping Centre
0121 572 7978

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester
Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver
• Chinese items • Old Ivory.
• Old Walking Sticks • Military items
Pre '47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
ALL HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 OR 07971 783206

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES
Tickets and other sports memorabilia.
Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

clothing alterations



Bridal/Evening Wear and General Clothing Alterations for Ladies and Gents
Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat
9.30am - 4.00pm
30 High St, Halesowen, B63 3BB
0121 585 0890

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ClassifiedAds

Classified Ads

RECORDS WANTED
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk, Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's Indie. Collections bought. Music Memorabilia, Promo Posters, autographs, etc, etc. Top prices paid.
Telephone 07966 252439.

items for sale

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CLIENT COMPUTERS

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Home visits or bring to me.
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t.v. / home entertainment

sales

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Plasma, LCD TV's from £99
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specialists at your service

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Supplied and Fitted £195
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All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
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A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

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DOOR SUPPLIER AND FITTERS
SPECIAL OFFERS!
PVC Now Available
- 6 Panel white grained doors, supplied and fitted **£54.50** each
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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
Carpets dry in 30 minutes.
Call Paul: 0800 112 3959
www.aclasscarpetcleaning.co.uk

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RAPID SECURITY CCTV cameras, supplied and fitted, domestic and commercial, same day service, free call out. Call Robbi on 07960 173589 / 0800 633 5899

driveways & patios

TARMAC SERVICES Tarmac drives, specialised drive painting, mini digger work, no job too small. Call: 07880 604282/ 07528387134.

WHITNEY PAVING & LANDSCAPING. Driveways, patios, fencing, walls. All work guaranteed. 0121 5571084/ 07957450716.

gates

ALL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 01902 606979/ 07903 500642 24 hours.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, All trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 821047
0121 6010479

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A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Discrete Service
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A BACKED BARGAIN flat, main, chimney/gutter repairs
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Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters.
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07920 885774

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD. Mini, midi, maxi, large. Screened soil and crushed hardcore for sale. All skips for weekend must be booked by Friday. Call: 0121 555 6060.

wrought iron

DARLASTON FABS 30 years experience in supplying gates and railings.Call: 07597 488290

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KING CHARLES Cavalier puppies, ready now. £450.
Call for details. 07971 868569.

PET GROOMING SERVICE. All dogs welcome, competitve rates, quality service. Call Rich on 01902 686061 or 07445 434053.

PUG PUPPY 9 months, KC reg with all papers, microchipped, vaccinated, £700 ono. 07581 173318.

YORKSHIRE Terrier X Chihuahua puppies, chunky, very small, wormed, £200. 07866 326846.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

JOIN THE SELF EMPLOYMENT REVOLUTION for only £25. Find out more - call: 0121 314 5641.

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

business directory

commercial premises

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1,800 Sq Ft Coseley
2,300 Sq Ft Refurb Office High St Tipton
15,000 SQ Ft Yard Tipton
Offices also available.
Flexible terms
Call 01902 497696 or 07779 331335

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9
No Deposit
****Move In Today****
from £99pw
Rooms from £60pw*
*Includes Most Bills
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Tel 0121 568 7400
j9accommodation.com
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSITS TO LET. Rugeley and Hednesford area, single person only 07969 129134.

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants.

SEMI DETACHED 3-bed, Walsall, CH, DG, £475pcm plus deposit £475. Call 01926 774975

SPACIOUS 2 BED FLAT TO LET
West Bromwich, unfurn, available immediately.
Call Julie to view on 0208 861 7019

TWO BEDROOM flat to rent in Great Wyrley. £420 pcm.
07947 546214.

TWO NICE ROOMS Part furnished plus bathroom, secure parking, £80pw plus bills. 07516 996225.

WEST BROMWICH, modern bedsits & studios available by town centre, no upfront deposits, DSS 35+ welcome, 07989 619386

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overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

building & construction

SCAFFOLDERS AND LABOURERS REQUIRED Must be CISRS card holders Tel 0121 553 1611

drivers

drivers
HGV 1 DRIVERS
Required - Tipton
* Days / Nights / Weekends
* Immediate assessment with view to regular work available now and into 2014
* Palletised loads to DC's
* Earn upto £700 per week
Call Jamie or Craig at Drivers @ Pertemps
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BILLY THOMAS HGV Driver Training
DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV 1 (ARTIC) & 2 (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
COACH (D) & MINIBUS (D1)
CAR & TRAILER
1-2-1 TRAINING
INITIAL CPC TRAINING
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DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
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- A RIGID AND ARTIC COURSE AT THE SAME

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Topgear-hgv@btconnect.com

MTS HGV training, Willenhall. Minibus, 7.5 tonne C1 & car & trailer 01902 866510 / 01902 866510

motor trade

CAR SALESPERSON for used car sales in West Brom. Good wages. Call 0121 557 0010.

RECOVERY DRIVERS / MECHANICS required for 24hr Recovery Company. Licence required to drive up to 7.5 tonne vehicle. Wages based on mechanical experience. Telephone 07912 083487.

nursing & carers

CARE MANAGER Required for 2 small homes, for adults with learning dsabilities. Will need to be registered with CQC, must have experience of working with adults with learning disabilities and have supervisory and management experience. Challenging behaviour experience desireable. Please contact Peter 0121 550 9175.

TIPTON HOMECARE LTD require Community Care Workers. Applicants must be honest, trustworthy and reliable and CRB checked. Hours to suit individuals, evenings, evenings / weekends, full / part time staff. Driver preferred but not essential. Areas to be covered Tipton, West Bromwi Applicants must specify working times. Please contact Stuart Higgins 0121 557 3649 or email stuart.higgins@tiptonhomecare.co.uk

part time - general

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME £200-£2,000pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

AUDI A6 ESTATE 1.8T, 1999, 106,000 miles, Blue, tax, MoT, usual extras, £750. 07951 510665.

BMA Est here 25 years!
CARS UNDER £1000
Full MOTs - Open 7 Days a week!
01902 490555 DALE STREET, BILSTON BMAMOTORS.CO.UK

CITROEN SAXO, 1998, 89,300 miles, red, MoT, tax, CD, petrol, manual. £550 ono. 07852 517582.

DAEWOO MATIZ 4-dr, 51 plate, 39,000 miles only, 45 good tyres, 11 mnths MoT £475 ono. 0121 218 3781/ 07936 282473.

DAEWOO MATIZ 4-dr, 51 plate, 39,000 miles only, 45 good tyres, metallic green, 11 mnths MoT £450 ono. 0121 218 3781/07936 282473

FORD FIESTA FREESTYLE
52 reg, 5 door, 48,700 miles, silver, 6 months tax, 12 months MoT, electric windows, air con, central locking, alloys.
£1,050.
01902 342117.

CENTRAL TRANSPORT TRAINING
HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES. CPC AND ADR COURSES. CALL FOR FREE BROCHURES
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We Buy Any House
EVERY TIME
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We pay 100% of purchase price
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In a mess? Talk in confidence We can help
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LOOK
• WE BUY ANY HOUSE
• ANY AREA • ANY CONDITION
24-7 0800 032 1718 OR TEXT BUY TO 88802

ClassifiedAds

FORD FOCUS 1.8 Ghia, ew, ps, tax/MoT. Good condition, £550 ono. 07733 967957.

FORD FOCUS, 2002, 49,000 miles, green, fsh, MoT, one owner, tax £1,000 ono. 01902 607095.

FORD GALAXY 2.3, automatic, 7 seater, 1999, 68,196 miles, blue privacy glass, serviced regularly, £950. 0121 5207058.

HYUNDAI TRAJET 2.7 PETROL
Automatic, 7 seater, 53 reg, 1 owner from new, fsh, MoT August 2014, tax February 2014.
£950 ono.
01922 441749/07796 633988.

NISSAN MICRA 1000cc, 2001 reg, 1 year MoT, 2mths tax. Very good condition. Only £499. 07737 435 769.

PEUGEOT 306HDi, 1999, tax, MoT, some service, 82,000 miles, 1st to see will buy, £895 ono.
Telephone 07880 897952.

RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE PRIVILEGE
2001, 75,000 miles, 1600 petrol, fsh, great condition, leather seats, family owned.
£1,395.
01630 655247.

ROVER 25
2003, 71,000 miles, electric windows and mirrors, MoT and tax, c/l, pas, 5 alloys, CD, petrol, recent service and cambelt change.
£775 ono.
0121 3574940.

cars over £1500

CITREON C3 Exclusive, 09 plate, auto, MoT, 1.6v, alloy wheels, very good condition, 37,900 miles. £4,500 ono. 07532 086095.

FORD MONDEO 2.2TDCi 155 EDGE
Hatchback, 2007, 96,500 miles, black, one owner, alloys, Bluetooth, a/c, MoT, tax, service history.
£2,350.
07764 589354 (Telford).

JAGUAR S TYPE V8 SE
Automatic, 2005, low mileage (36,990 miles), dark blue, pure luxury.
£5,950.
0121 5207058.

MERCEDES A160, blue efficiency, Avantt Garde, 2009, diesel, manual, Sat Nav, silver, immaculate. £6,990. 01902 842250.

MUST BE SEEN

MERCEDES BENZ E320 CDi AVANT GARDE ESTATE
2004, Silver with black leather interior. 179,000 miles.
One non smoking owner from new.
FSH, one months Tax,
12 months MoT.
£4,250.
07977 939497. Staffs.

MUST BE SEEN

MERCEDES C180 COMPRESSOR Estate, 58 plate, 70,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd, fsh, very good condition, £10,250. 07881 554286.

MINI COOPER 1.6, auto, 8 months MoT, 6 months tax, 46k, 03 reg, very good condition, £3,900 ono. 07507 069469 (Tipton).

PEUGEOT 107 1.0 Urban, black, 6 months tax, 12 months MoT, CD, 5dr, very good condition, £3,000. 07448 058505/0121 5722170

PEUGEOT 207 2010 reg., silver, 1360cc, petrol, 6,300 miles, 6 months MoT and tax. very good condition. £6,000. 01922 416968.

PEUGEOT 307S 1.4
06 reg, black, MoT February 2014, 82,000 miles, CD/radio, excellent condition inside and out.
£1,650 ono.
01543 483171 (after 5pm).

RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION 55 reg, Taxed and MoT'd, £1,100. o.n.o. Telephone 0121 520 6809.

VW GOLF SDI, 02, 125k miles, red, abs, 11 months MoT, pas, diesel, good condition, £1,550. 07929 448403.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARPARTS 1960 / 80 fog and spots lamp, plus other car bits. Ring for details 01785 601222.

MGB ROADSTER 1981, red, MoT/tax, new hood, full tonneau, much work done, some spares, immaculate,reduced£ 2,650.01785 840220

commercial vehicles

FORD FIESTA VAN, 2009, 1.4TDi, white, 81k miles, Bargain £2,750. Telephone 07563 326824.

driving tuition

AUTOMATIC DRIVING TUITION
Teaching able bodied and disabled.
Fully adapted vehicle.
Two hour assessment lesson £34.
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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

I, JAGJIT SINGH SIDHU
of NEWS STOP

24 HIGH STREET WEST
BROMWICH B70 6JX

Hereby give notice I have applied under S34, Licensing Act 2003 for the following variations to the premises licence for the above mentioned premises, namely

To vary the Hours for
licensable activity
MON-SUN 05:00 - 23:00
To Remove All Current Comditions

Any person wishing to object to the application shall do so in writing, not later than 12th Oct 2013to Trading Standards and Licensing, Homes and Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, Po Box 2372, Oldbury B69 3BS. Telephone 0121 569 6537, email: licensingteam@sandwell.gov.uk Where a copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

PMB Licensing
Authorised Agents

Dated 14TH Sept 2013

BETTY SIMMONDS
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 63 Moat Road Oldbury West Midlands B68 8ED, who died on 04/07/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 29/11/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: DMEA/3220933P/Simmonds) *7390489*

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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

The application may affect the character or appearance of a conservation area.

DC/13/56330	Ms Dorcas Marshall Shiloh Apostolic Church	Shiloh Apostolic Church Lodge Road West Bromwich B70 8NY	Proposed two storey rear extension to link the church with the existing two storey building to the rear.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (FARM ROAD, TIPTON)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in order to facilitate works to the gas main in Farm Road, Tipton the Borough Council of Sandwell, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Farm Road, Tipton.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Walker Street, Cotterills Road and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 18th October 2013, it is expected that the work will be completed and the road re-opened by 29th November 2013. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Andrew Smith of Balfour Beatty (working on behalf of National Grid Gas) who can be contacted on 07890 256572 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

DATED this 26th day of September 2013.
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE
Name of applicant: S & K Sales & Services Ltd. Postal address of premises: Drinks 4 Delivery, Storage King, Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B71 4JZ. Details of Application: I hereby give notice that the above named individual has applied for a premises licence under the new 2003 Licensing Act to sell intoxicating liquor by retail for consumption off the premises during the trading hours granted under the conditions of his premises licence. Licensing activity applied for: Sale of alcohol: Monday to Sunday – 00.00hrs to 23.59hrs. The licensing Register can be inspected at any time by visiting www.sandwell.gov.uk. During the office hours arrangements may be made for the register to be viewed at Licensing Section, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, B69 3BS. Any representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the licensing authority by 07.10.2013. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and a person may be liable for a fine on summary convictions of up to £5,000. For further details regarding this application please contact Personal Licence Training Ltd, Unit 3, The Oaks, Clews Road, Redditch, B98 7ST.
01527 544 780

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
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10 Personals

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Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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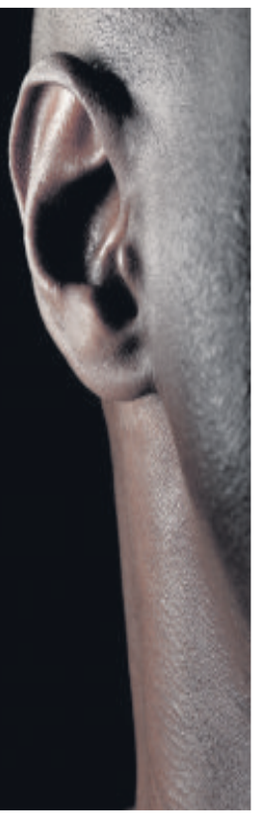

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Darts champ's visit well worth the Waites

Scott Waites, centre, with the Lakeside trophy, with Jamie Caven and Jason Evans of Darlaston at the Cleveland Arms

WORLD darts champion Scott Waites returned to Wolverhampton for a fun-filled exhibition at a city pub.

The British Darts Organisation title holder was the feature attraction alongside Professional Darts Corporation pro Jamie Caven as 210 enthusiasts packed into The Cleveland Arms.

Some punters played alongside the stars before they went to head-to-head.

Adie Mason, match marker in the PDC and an accomplished Master of Ceremonies on the exhibition circuit, called the action throughout the evening.

Halifax's Waites, whose parents live in Telford, regularly competes in the PDC'S Grand Slam at Wolverhampton Civic Hall and lost in the final 16-2 to Phil Taylor in 2009.

He won the tournament in 2010 and agreed the Black Country will always hold good memories.

Fortunate

Waites said: "Wolverhampton has always been good to me, to win the world title, Grand Slam and the BDO World Masters is something that few players can say and I am fortunate enough to have done it.

"I have been at the Cleveland for an exhibition two years in a row now. They love their darts down here and it's always a lot of fun."

Cleveland bar manager William Adamson said: "We have had the likes of Phil Taylor, Adrian Lewis, James Wade, Raymond van Barneveld, Gary Anderson and even Bobby George here down the years.

"We try to put on as many events as we can for our regulars and to have Scott, a world champion, and Jamie with admission just £5 proved a great night."

Waites won the singles match against Caven 5-3 with three 180s to boot.

The night raised funds for the Poppy Appeal.

Ton-up as Brum win battle of Monarchs

Leicester Monarchs 78
Birmingham Monarchs 100

BIRMINGHAM claimed their third win of the season in the Midland League under the floodlights in a rearranged fixture.

The Wednesday night fixture, September 18, had been rescheduled from the previous Sunday due to adverse weather.

For the first time in a while, Birmingham had a full strength side with Scott Millward in the starting eight as well as Mark Winwood who has been in stunning form and won the Chris Allen Memorial.

Spill

Leicester had a slightly weaker side but they did include British Women's Champion Lauren Davies.

She pulled out with a badly injured hand after heat nine was called back following a nasty spill on the back straight and Michelle Whitehead excluded.

Birmingham made a 6-3 in the re-run.

In a classic 17th heat Paul Timms joined his son out the front after going from last to first following a bad gate.

Kev Burns rounded off the night with a heat win ahead of Birmingham's Winwood and Nathan Groves.

Leicester Monarchs 78: Marchant 11, Wood 9, Burns 14+3, La. Davies 14, Li. Davies 2, Venson 10+1, Whitehead 4+1, Skinner 14+1

Birmingham Monarchs 100: Millward 20, Hodgkinson 5, C.Timms 20, Prince 7+1, Winwood 16+3, P.Timms 14, Stevenson 4, Groves 14+1

Skipper on the mark with a brace

Barford Tigers Ladies 6
Droitwich Ladies 2

BARFORD Hockey Ladies welcomed Droitwich from the division above in what promised to be a challenging encounter in their last game before the League starts.

Sarah De Pinna gave Barford the lead and captain Leanne Homer added two.

Droitwich pulled one back before Bianca Homer scored.

After Droitwcih scored again, Barford had the last word with Lateefah Burton.

This Saturday the ladies kick off their league fixtures at Ludlow.

Other Results: Midlands Premier Division; Barford Tigers Men 1sts 4 Northampton Saints 1st 3: Friendlies: Barford Tigers Men 2nds 2 Lansdown 2; Barford Tigers Men 4ths 5 Wooton Wanderers 2nds 3

Wait for a win ends and so does Di Canio's reign

Albion 3 Sunderland 0

IN the circumstances, any old win would have done. Yet Albion managed a whole lot more than a bog-standard victory to inject some life into their season in the nick of time.

Steve Clarke claimed Saturday was not quite a perfect day for him and his side.

By Steve Madeley

But it is tough to imagine how things could have gone better for the Scot and his players on arguably the highest-stakes occasion of his Hawthorns reign to date.

Three points were of paramount importance and they were safely secured with 14 minutes remaining of a one-sided game.

Influential

Aided and abetted by Sunderland's dismal display, Albion gave their gaffer so much more than the sweet taste of victory to accompany his hard-earned glass or two of red on Saturday evening.

There was a second clean sheet in five matches, a hugely influential display by the recalled James Morrison and key contributions from some of the men Clarke pushed so hard to get into the club before the closure of the transfer window.

Stephane Sessegnon grabbed the headlines with a debut goal against his former club.

But Morgan Amalfitano truly captured the imagination of Baggies fans, rounding off his performance with the third goal after Liam Ridgewell had made it two. With a much-improved display from Nicolas Anelka and some moments of trickery from Scott Sinclair factored in, Saturday felt like a highly significant day just as Clarke and his charges needed it.

While the win put an end to Paolo Di Canio's tenure as Black Cats boss, Clarke hailed his side's strength in depth and admitted the club's late-summer signings had left him with selection headaches. "On Saturday I was in the fortunate position where I could take off two players who had played really well," he said.

Head coach Clarke has also refused to write off Markus Rosenberg's Albion career despite the Baggies' deadline-day business raising questions over his future.

Clarke insisted the 30-year-old has a chance to force his way into the team. "He is part of the squad and he trains well every day.

"He works hard, he's a top professional and, if he gets his chance, he has to be ready."

Tivi are knocked out by Sphinx once more

Tividale defender Luke Paskin and Coventry's Jerome Murdock clash during the FA Vase tie

Tividale 1 Coventry Sphinx 2, FA Vase 2nd Qualifying Round

Tividale FC

IN the space of eight days Tividale were knocked out of both national competitions by Coventry Sphinx.

There can be no excuses with his result. Coventry were the better side for the majority of the game and they travel to Pelsall Villa for the first round proper on October 19.

The game sprung to life on 31 minutes when Jason Chilton allowed Jerome Murdock to get on the wrong side of him and he went down in the box for a penalty he converted. From a free-kick on 43 minutes Tividale equalised as Luke Paskin headed home.

Mitchell Plows was sent off for a second yellow on 60 minutes and Sphinx took advantage as Matthew Fowler turned in the winner.

Boss Rowe delighted as old boy Hill rejoins

Tipton new boy John Hill

FORMER Tipton Town defender John Hill has rejoined the club.

Hill – son of ex-Tipton and current Halesowen Town boss John Hill – is a no-nonsense player who played for Town for several seasons and played a key part in the famous FA Cup run to the First Round.

'Bonky' played for Tipton boss Ian Rowe for a spell at Gornal Athletic and has signed from AFC Wulfrunians where he started the season.

Ian Rowe said: "We're delighted to have got John back at Tipton – he's a player I know a lot about and have worked with before and he's certainly familiar with the club.

"He will be a massive asset for us defensively, especially with us having lost Curtis Tilt to Halesowen Town and with Pete Wood having an injury setback."

Town thank moment of Kinch magic

Tipton Town 1
Stourport Swifts 0

A MOMENT of magic by Mensah Kinch helped Tipton earn a vital win over Stourport Swifts.

Kinch's looping header from 12 yards evaded the grasp of Swifts keeper Haydn Whitcombe.

James Pemberton was called into action when he thwarted Christopher Conway after Rob Perks' attempted header back fell short. On 35 minutes Ben Hadley forced a superb save from Whitcombe with a 25 yard free kick.

Tipton scored the all-important goal on 58 minutes.

Substitute Danny Crudgington could have doubled the lead on the break near the end.

SPORT

Hill & back
Former player in return to Tipton
Page 63

Tivi bow out
Sphinx claim the FA Vase honours
Page 63

Sports Desk 01902 319461 e-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

Heads go down as visitors take lead

Wednesbury RUFC 14
Eccleshall RUFC 42

ONCE again Wednesbury were decimated by injuries to key players, losing seven of their first team players ahead of a game they needed to win.

They competed well, but once Eccleshall got their noses in front Wednesbury's head went down.

Eccleshall took first blood scoring an unconverted try after only five minutes. It took Wednesbury 20 minutes to get onto the scoreboard but it came with the best try of the game through Mitch Grearly. Tom Huggins added the conversion.

Even

Eccleshall hit back five minutes later with another unconverted try, before Mike Chivers touched down, Huggins again converting.

Two converted tries and a penalty for Eccleshall took them 27-14 in at the break.

The first 20 minutes of the second half were pretty even but within the last 10 minutes, Eccelshall added to their score.

The visitors notched a further three unconverted tries to give them a convincing victory.

With no game this weekend, Wednesbury return to league action the week after (October 5) with a trip to Edwardians, kick off at 3pm.

Ticket fees are pegged

A RECORD crowd is expected as the Selco Brummies take on Wolverhampton in the Sky Sports Elite League play-offs next week.

Admission prices have been pegged for the semi-final second leg tie at Perry Barr, billed as the biggest speedway meeting ever held in Birmingham. Tape is up at 7.30pm on Monday, September 30.

Admission prices are £16 adults, £12 concessions, £5 for 14-to-17-year-olds and under-14s free. Season ticket holders also go free.

Fans can obtain a 10 per cent discount by pre-booking their tickets. Call 07800 566128 between 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Managing Director Alan Phillips said: "We are pleased to peg our play-off semi-final admission prices to that of a normal league match. We are expecting a record crowd, so we urge fans to buy advance tickets."

Boxing legend Holyfield in Second City date

Boxing legend Evander Holyfield in Cannock with Bar Sport owner Scott Murray

Boxing

BOXING legend Evander Holyfield will be back in the West Midlands at the start of next month as the feature attraction of a sportsman's dinner in the heart of Birmingham.

The former undisputed world heavyweight champion will be at the Second City's Holiday Inn Hotel on Smallbrook Queensway on Wednesday night, October 2.

Earlier this month he kicked off his UK tour with a date at Bar Sport, in Cannock.

'The Real Deal' was one of the most recognisable fighters of his era, turning pro at 21 after winning a bronze medal at the 1984 Olympic Games. He knocked out Mike Tyson's conqueror, James 'Buster' Douglas, to take all the heavyweight belts for the first time in 1990 but retired after being defeated for the titles by Michael Moorer in 1994.

He returned and engaged in two big battles with Tyson, taking the WBA crown by stoppage in 1996 and then winning by disqualification a year later, after famously having part of his ear bitten off.

He drew with Lennox Lewis in 1999 but lost a rematch eight months later, before becoming the only boxer to win a version of the heavyweight title four times in 2000, against John Ruiz. The 50-year-old hasn't retired yet, either, last halting Dane Brian Neilsen in the 10th round in May 2011 although he hasn't competed since.

Before the evening show, Holyfield and Brummie former British middleweight champion Wayne Elcock will be visiting Birmingham Children's Hospital at 1pm to hand out presents to the patients.

Tickets to the dinner are £50, £100 and £150 – which includes a three-course meal – with prices rising for back, middle and front tier seating.

For more information, call 07976 842 383 or visit **www.boxfrog uk.com**

IT'S NOT OVER YET, SAY RIVAL BOSSES

Wolves 44 Birmingham 46

TEAM boss Phil Morris paid tribute to his Birmingham side after edging out Wolves 46-44 on their own track on Monday night.

The Perry Barr boss was in a jubilant mood after the play-off semi-final first leg win but insists there will be no complacency from his side in the return at Perry Barr next Monday (September 30).

Former rider Morris, who has a fine relationship with his riders and co-promoter Graham Drury, said: "We're really happy with that – we came here with a job to do and we managed to do that.

"We said before the meeting we wanted to come here and win – it's a tough place to go but we still managed to do that so we are delighted.

Beauty

"Next week we might have another three riders at the top of the scorechart which is the beauty of this team, and we'll be looking for another strong performance in that second leg.

"It was a good night at the office but it's still only half-time and we know it's far from over.

"Anything can happen in the play-offs and Wolves are more than capable of coming back at us."

Brummies skipper Danny King hailed his side's performance, despite not enjoying the best of evenings personally as he twice fell off.

The meeting had a sombre conclusion when Wolves guest Niels-Kristian Iversen was taken to hospital with a hip injury after a bad crash. But the Dane has since been released and no broken bones were confirmed.

Wolverhampton team boss Peter Adams insists

Speedway

their season is not over despite the first leg defeat.

The Monmore Green outfit face an uphill task against their table-topping neighbours as they aim to extend their impressive 2013 campaign.

But Adams is hopeful that his side can pull off a shock result at Perry Barr and reach the grand final against Swindon or Poole.

"We knew it was important for us to try and get some sort of a lead to take to Perry Barr, so to end up with a narrow defeat is obviously very disappointing," he said.

"Unfortunately things didn't quite go our way, but it's still not over yet. Birmingham have quality throughout the side which makes them very hard to attack, but we'll certainly have a good go in the second leg.

"They haven't finished top of the league for nothing – they have been the best team in the country over the course of the season.

"But we'll be doing everything we can to try and salvage a result"

Wolves: Iversen 5+1, Wells 6, F Lindgren 13+1,Miskowiak 1, Skornicki 9, L Lindgren 4+2, Klindt 6

Birmingham: Smolinski 3+2, Doyle 12, King 4, Barker 9, Harris 11, Covatti 1, Tully 6+2

Niels-Kristian Iversen crashes out of the final race of the play-off semi-final first leg with fellow dane Nicolai Klindt

James Doyle in action for the Brummies during theplay-off semi-final at Monmore. *Pictures:Jon Hipkiss*

Tickets sell fast for a night with ace Keegan

ONE of Britain's most celebrated footballers is the star guest at an evening in Dudley next week.

Organisers Compton Hospice say tickets for the Evening with Kevin Keegan are selling well.

The former Newcastle United player and manager will be at the Copthorne Hotel, on Thursday, October 3 in aid of the charity which supports patient with life-limiting illnesses.

The evening features a comedian, three-course meal and question and answer session with the double European Footballer of the Year.

Keegan, who won 63 England caps, later managed his country. He also played for Scunthorpe, Liverpool, SV Hamburg and Southampton and was boss at Manchester City and Fulham.

Simon Cater, corporate fundraiser for Compton Hospice, said "Kevin Keegan is a sporting legend. He captured the hearts of the British public."

Tickets cost £60 plus VAT per person or £55 plus VAT per person for tables of eight or 10.

Game will mark ref's anniversary

THE Staffs County FA is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a referee's first game.

Ian Campbell officiated his first game on October 12 1963 at Great Bridge playing fields.

Five decades on and the Bilston Youth Partnership game between Forest Star and Wednesbury Sports Union will be played on Saturday, October 12, to mark the milestone.

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